

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
28 December 2000 (28.12.2000)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 00/78728 A1**

(51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: C07D 235/06, 401/10, 403/10, 405/14, 409/02, 413/14, A61K 31/4184, 31/496, A61P 21/00, 23/00, 25/00

(21) International Application Number: PCT/DK00/00333

(22) International Filing Date: 22 June 2000 (22.06.2000)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:  
PA 1999 00888 22 June 1999 (22.06.1999) DK

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(81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.

(84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

- With international search report.
- Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments.

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.



**WO 00/78728 A1**

(54) Title: NOVEL BENZIMIDAZOLE DERIVATIVES AND PHARMACEUTICAL COMPOSITIONS COMPRISING THESE COMPOUNDS

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to novel benzimidazole derivatives, pharmaceutical compositions containing these compounds, and methods of treatment therewith. The compounds of the invention are useful in the treatment of central nervous system diseases and disorders, which are responsive to modulation of the GABA<sup>A</sup> receptor complex, and in particular for inducing and maintaining anaesthesia, sedation and muscle relaxation, as well as for combating febrile convulsions in children. The compounds of the invention may also be used by veterinarians.

**NOVEL BENZIMIDAZOLE DERIVATIVES AND  
PHARMACEUTICAL COMPOSITIONS COMPRISING THESE COMPOUNDS**

5

**TECHNICAL FIELD**

The present invention relates to novel benzimidazole derivatives, pharmaceutical compositions containing these compounds, and methods of treatment therewith.

10 The compounds of the invention are useful in the treatment of central nervous system diseases and disorders, which are responsive to modulation of the GABA<sub>A</sub> receptor complex, and in particular for inducing and maintaining anaesthesia, sedation and muscle relaxation, as well as for combating febrile convulsions in children.

The compounds of the invention may also be used by veterinarians.

15

**BACKGROUND ART**

Agents that bind or interact with the modulatory sites on the GABA<sub>A</sub> receptor complex, such as for example the benzodiazepine receptor, can have either 20 enhancing effect on the action of GABA, i.e. a positive modulatory effect of the receptor (agonists, partial agonists), an attenuating effect on the action of GABA, i.e. negative modulation of the receptor (inverse agonists, partial inverse agonists), or they can block the effect of both agonists and inverse agonists (antagonists or ligands without intrinsic activity).

25 Agonists generally produce muscle relaxant, hypnotic, sedative, anxiolytic, and/or anticonvulsant effects, while inverse agonists produce pro-convulsive, anti-inebriant or anxiogenic effects. Compounds with anxiolytic effects, but with or without reduced muscle relaxant, hypnotic and sedative effects, are characterised as partial agonists. Partial inverse agonists are considered to be useful as cognition enhancers.

30 Full agonists of the benzodiazepine receptor are considered useful as anaesthetics. However, many drugs presently available as anaesthetics, and especially pre-anaesthetics, give rise to hang-over effects as well as long awakening times, wherein careful monitoring of the patient is necessary. Anaesthetics with a long half-life may also impose difficulties during incidents of overdosing i.e. prolonged 35 respiratory depression. Furthermore, some currently used drugs cannot be used for anaesthetising children as deaths have been reported in children after prolonged use of Propofol. Some anaesthetics are gasses which inherently possesses a contamination problem for the medical staff.

A well known anaesthetic, Propofol, is administered as a mixture of soybean oil, glycerol and purified egg phosphatide, which mixture nourish bacterial growth. Administration of bacterially contaminated Propofol has been reported to cause sepsis and death [Wiklund *et al.*; The New England Journal of Medicine 1997 5 337 (16) 1132-1141]. Further, compounds with a long *in vivo* half-life will give problems with accumulation during and after prolonged treatment e.g. when administered to patients constrained to a respirator. Short half-lives wherein the compounds are metabolised to inactive metabolites allow for a predictable correlation of dose and duration of pharmacological effect.

10 Ideally the anaesthetising effect should be observed shortly after a bolus injection or infusion of the compound. A rapid onset of action minimises the period of anxiety and uneasiness experienced by patients going into surgery.

Patients suffering from severe and continuous epileptic attacks presently treated with large amounts of sedatives, e.g. benzodiazepines, will benefit from 15 shorter acting compounds with no hang-over or long lasting sedating effect.

As the preferred route of administration is by intravenous injection or infusion, the anaesthetising compounds should preferably be water soluble.

EP 616807 describes benzimidazole compounds for use as benzodiazepine receptor ligands.

20 WO 96/33194, WO 96/33191 and WO 96/33192 describe benzimidazole compounds having affinity for the GABA receptor complex.

WO 98/34923 describes phenylbenzimidazole derivatives as ligands for the GABA receptor complex.

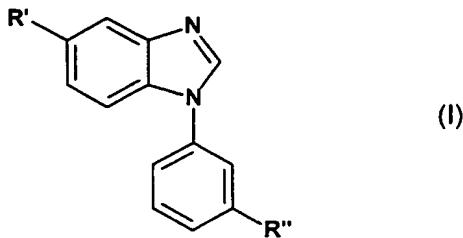
25 WO 98/17651 describes benzimidazole compounds for use as e.g. anaesthetics. However, the presently disclosed compounds are superior to the compounds previously described.

## SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

30 It is an object of the invention to provide novel compounds useful as anaesthetics and/or pre-anaesthetics, sedatives, muscle relaxants, and for the treatment of febrile convulsions in children, status epilepticus, for use to patients constrained to a respirator as well as for veterinarian uses.

35 In its first aspect, the invention provides a benzimidazole derivative represented by the general Formula I,

3



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,  
wherein,

R' represents a group of the formula -(alk)<sub>q</sub>-R<sup>1</sup>,

5 wherein

(alk) represents alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl,

q is 0 or 1,

R<sup>1</sup> represents a group of the formula -CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>2</sup>, wherein

10 R<sup>2</sup> represents hydrogen, alkyl, hydroxy-alkyl, alkoxy-alkyl, thioalkoxy-alkyl, alkyl-“Heterocycle”, or -alkyl-NR<sup>3</sup>R<sup>4</sup>,

wherein

“Heterocycle” represents a mono- or polycyclic heterocyclic group, which heterocyclic group is optionally substituted one or more times with substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, cyano, hydroxy-15 alkyl, alkoxy-alkyl, carboxyl and acyl, and a group of the formula -(alkyl)<sub>p</sub>-CN, -(alkyl)<sub>p</sub>-aryl, -(alkyl)<sub>p</sub>-“Heterocycle”, -(alkyl)<sub>p</sub>-CO<sub>2</sub>-“Heterocycle” or -(alkyl-CO<sub>2</sub>)<sub>s</sub>-(alkyl)<sub>t</sub>-COR<sup>5</sup>,

in which formulas

p, s and t independently of each other is 0 or 1,

“Heterocycle” represents a mono- or polycyclic heterocyclic group, which 20 heterocyclic group is optionally substituted one or more times with substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, cyano, hydroxy-alkyl, alkoxy-alkyl, carboxyl and acyl,

25 R<sup>5</sup> represents hydroxy, alkoxy, hydroxy-alkoxy, alkoxy-alkoxy, thioalkoxy-alkoxy, or a group of the formula -NR<sup>6</sup>R<sup>7</sup> or -O-alkyl-NR<sup>6</sup>R<sup>7</sup>,

in which formulas

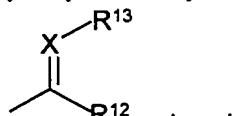
30 R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>7</sup> independently of each other represent hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl or a mono- or polycyclic heterocyclic group, which heterocyclic group is optionally substituted one or more times with substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, hydroxy-alkyl, alkoxy-alkyl, carboxyl and acyl, or

R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>7</sup> together with the nitrogen to which they are attached form a mono- or polycyclic heterocyclic group, which heterocyclic group may be substituted

one or more times with substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, hydroxy-alkyl, alkoxy-alkyl, carboxyl and acyl; and

R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> independently of each another represent hydrogen, alkyl or cycloalkyl, or

5 R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> together with the nitrogen to which they are attached form a mono- or poly-cyclic heterocyclic group, which heterocyclic group is optionally substituted one or more times with substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, hydroxy-alkyl, alkoxy-alkyl, carboxyl and acyl; or



R<sup>1</sup> represents a group of the formula

10 X represents N or CH,

R<sup>12</sup> represents hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy or hydroxy-alkyl, and

R<sup>13</sup> represents hydrogen, hydroxy, alkyl, alkoxy or hydroxy-alkyl; or

R<sup>1</sup> represents a mono- or polycyclic heterocyclic group, which heterocyclic group is optionally substituted one or more times with substituents selected from the 15 group consisting of alkyl, hydroxy-alkyl, alkoxy-alkyl, carboxyl, and acyl, and a group of the formula -(alkyl)<sub>p</sub>-aryl, -(alkyl)<sub>p</sub>-"Heterocycle", -(alkyl)<sub>p</sub>-CN or -(alkyl-CO<sub>2</sub>)<sub>s</sub>-(alkyl)<sub>t</sub>-COR<sup>5</sup>,

in which formulas

p, s and t independently of each another is 0 or 1,

20 "Heterocycle" represents a mono- or polycyclic heterocyclic group, which heterocyclic group is optionally substituted one or more times with substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, cyano, hydroxy-alkyl, alkoxy-alkyl, carboxyl and acyl,

R<sup>5</sup> represents hydroxy, alkoxy, hydroxy-alkoxy, alkoxy-alkoxy, thioalkoxy-25 alkoxy, or a group of the formula -NR<sup>6</sup>R<sup>7</sup> or -O-alkyl-NR<sup>6</sup>R<sup>7</sup>,

in which formulas

30 R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>7</sup> independently of each another represent hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl or a mono- or polycyclic heterocyclic group, which heterocyclic group is optionally substituted one or more times with substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, hydroxy-alkyl, alkoxy-alkyl, carboxyl and acyl, or

35 R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>7</sup> together with the nitrogen to which they are attached form a mono- or polycyclic heterocyclic group, which heterocyclic group is optionally substituted one or more times with substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, hydroxy-alkyl, alkoxy-alkyl, carboxyl and acyl; and

R" represents -(alkyl)<sub>o</sub>-"Heterocycle" or -(alkyl)<sub>o</sub>-CO<sub>2</sub>-(alkyl)<sub>u</sub>-"Heterocycle",

wherein

o and u independently of each another is 0 or 1, and

"Heterocycle" represents a mono- or polycyclic heterocyclic group, which heterocyclic group is optionally substituted one or more times with substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, cyano, hydroxy-alkyl, alkoxy-alkyl, carboxyl, and acyl, and a group of the formula -(alkyl)<sub>p</sub>-CN, -(alkyl)<sub>p</sub>-aryl, -(alkyl)<sub>p</sub>-aralkyl, -(alkyl)<sub>p</sub>-O-aryl, -(alkyl)<sub>p</sub>-O-aralkyl, -(alkyl)<sub>p</sub>-CO<sub>2</sub>-aryl, -(alkyl)<sub>p</sub>-CO<sub>2</sub>-aralkyl, -(alkyl)<sub>p</sub>-"Heterocycle", -(alkyl)<sub>p</sub>-CO<sub>2</sub>-"Heterocycle" or -(alkyl-CO<sub>2</sub>)<sub>s</sub>-(alkyl)<sub>t</sub>-COR<sup>5</sup>,

10 in which formulas

p, s and t independently of each another is 0 or 1,

"Heterocycle" represents a mono- or polycyclic heterocyclic group, which heterocyclic group is optionally substituted one or more times with substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, cyano, hydroxy-alkyl, alkoxy-alkyl, carboxyl and acyl,

15 R<sup>6</sup> represents hydrogen, hydroxy, alkyl, alkoxy, hydroxy-alkyl, hydroxy-alkoxy, alkoxy-alkyl, alkoxy-alkoxy, thioalkoxy-alkyl, thioalkoxy-alkoxy, or a group of the formula -NR<sup>6</sup>R<sup>7</sup> or -O-alkyl-NR<sup>6</sup>R<sup>7</sup>,

in which formulas

20 R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>7</sup> independently of each another represent hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl or a mono- or polycyclic heterocyclic group, which heterocyclic group is optionally substituted one or more times with substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, hydroxy-alkyl, alkoxy-alkyl, carboxyl and acyl, or

25 R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>7</sup> together with the nitrogen to which they are attached form a mono- or polycyclic heterocyclic group, which heterocyclic group is optionally substituted one or more times with substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, hydroxy-alkyl, alkoxy-alkyl, carboxyl and acyl; or

R" represents -(alkyl)<sub>m</sub>-CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>,

30 wherein

m is 0 or 1, and

R<sup>8</sup> represents hydrogen, alkyl, hydroxy-alkyl, alkoxy-alkyl, thioalkoxy-alkyl, or a group of the formula -(alkyl)<sub>p</sub>-NR<sup>9</sup>R<sup>10</sup>,

wherein

35 p is 0 or 1, and

R<sup>9</sup> and R<sup>10</sup> independently of each another represent hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, or a mono- or polycyclic heterocyclic group, which heterocyclic group is optionally substituted one or more times with substituents selected from the group

consisting of halogen, alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, hydroxy-alkyl, alkoxy-alkyl, carboxyl and acyl, or

5  $R^9$  and  $R^{10}$  together with the nitrogen to which they are attached form a mono- or polycyclic heterocyclic group, which heterocyclic group is optionally substituted one or more times with substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, hydroxy-alkyl, alkoxy-alkyl, carboxyl and acyl.

In its second aspect, the invention provides a pharmaceutical composition containing a therapeutically effective amount of a benzimidazole derivative according to the invention, or a pharmaceutically acceptable addition salt thereof, together with 10 at least one pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, excipient or diluent.

In its third aspect, the invention provides a use of a benzimidazole derivative according to the invention for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment, prevention or alleviation of a disease or a disorder or a condition of a mammal, including a human, which disease, disorder or condition is responsive to 15 modulation of the GABA receptor complex.

20 In its fourth aspect, the invention provides a method for treatment, prevention or alleviation of a disease or a disorder or a condition of a living animal body, including a human, which disorder, disease or condition is responsive to modulation of the GABA receptor complex, which method comprises the step of administering to such a living animal body in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a benzimidazole derivative according to the invention.

Other objects of the invention will be apparent to the person skilled in the art from the following detailed description and the working examples.

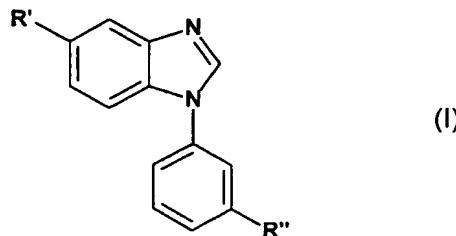
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## DETAILED DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

### Benzimidazole Derivatives

In its first aspect the invention provides novel benzimidazole derivatives. The benzimidazole derivatives of the invention are represented by the general Formula I,

30



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,  
wherein,

R' represents a group of the formula -(alk)<sub>q</sub>-R<sup>1</sup>,

wherein

(alk) represents alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl,

q is 0 or 1,

5 R<sup>1</sup> represents a group of the formula -CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>2</sup>, wherein

R<sup>2</sup> represents hydrogen, alkyl, hydroxy-alkyl, alkoxy-alkyl, thioalkoxy-alkyl, alkyl-“Heterocycle”, or -alkyl-NR<sup>3</sup>R<sup>4</sup>,

wherein

“Heterocycle” represents a mono- or polycyclic heterocyclic group, which

10 heterocyclic group is optionally substituted one or more times with substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, cyano, hydroxy-alkyl, alkoxy-alkyl, carboxyl and acyl, and a group of the formula -(alkyl)<sub>p</sub>-CN, -(alkyl)<sub>p</sub>-aryl, -(alkyl)<sub>p</sub>-“Heterocycle”, -(alkyl)<sub>p</sub>-CO<sub>2</sub>-“Heterocycle” or -(alkyl-CO<sub>2</sub>)<sub>s</sub>-(alkyl)<sub>t</sub>-COR<sup>5</sup>,

in which formulas

15 p, s and t independently of each another is 0 or 1,

“Heterocycle” represents a mono- or polycyclic heterocyclic group, which heterocyclic group is optionally substituted one or more times with substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, cyano, hydroxy-alkyl, alkoxy-alkyl, carboxyl and acyl,

20 R<sup>5</sup> represents hydroxy, alkoxy, hydroxy-alkoxy, alkoxy-alkoxy, thioalkoxy-alkoxy, or a group of the formula -NR<sup>6</sup>R<sup>7</sup> or -O-alkyl-NR<sup>6</sup>R<sup>7</sup>,

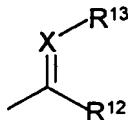
in which formulas

25 R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>7</sup> independently of each another represent hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl or a mono- or polycyclic heterocyclic group, which heterocyclic group is optionally substituted one or more times with substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, hydroxy-alkyl, alkoxy-alkyl, carboxyl and acyl, or

30 R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>7</sup> together with the nitrogen to which they are attached form a mono- or polycyclic heterocyclic group, which heterocyclic group may be substituted one or more times with substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, hydroxy-alkyl, alkoxy-alkyl, carboxyl and acyl; and

R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> independently of each another represent hydrogen, alkyl or cycloalkyl, or

35 R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> together with the nitrogen to which they are attached form a mono- or poly-cyclic heterocyclic group, which heterocyclic group is optionally substituted one or more times with substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, hydroxy-alkyl, alkoxy-alkyl, carboxyl and acyl; or



$R^1$  represents a group of the formula  $\begin{array}{c} X \\ \diagup \\ R^{13} \\ \diagdown \\ R^{12} \end{array}$ , wherein

$X$  represents N or CH,

$R^{12}$  represents hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy or hydroxy-alkyl, and

$R^{13}$  represents hydrogen, hydroxy, alkyl, alkoxy or hydroxy-alkyl; or

5  $R^1$  represents a mono- or polycyclic heterocyclic group, which heterocyclic group is optionally substituted one or more times with substituents selected from the group consisting of alkyl, hydroxy-alkyl, alkoxy-alkyl, carboxyl, and acyl, and a group of the formula  $-(alkyl)_p\text{-aryl}$ ,  $-(alkyl)_p\text{-Heterocycle}$ ,  $-(alkyl)_p\text{-CN}$  or  $-(alkyl\text{-CO}_2)_s\text{-(alkyl)}_t\text{-COR}^5$ ,

10 in which formulas

$p$ ,  $s$  and  $t$  independently of each another is 0 or 1,

“Heterocycle” represents a mono- or polycyclic heterocyclic group, which heterocyclic group is optionally substituted one or more times with substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, cyano, hydroxy-15 alkyl, alkoxy-alkyl, carboxyl and acyl,

$R^5$  represents hydroxy, alkoxy, hydroxy-alkoxy, alkoxy-alkoxy, thioalkoxy-alkoxy, or a group of the formula  $-\text{NR}^6\text{R}^7$  or  $-\text{O-alkyl-NR}^6\text{R}^7$ ,

in which formulas

20  $R^6$  and  $R^7$  independently of each another represent hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl or a mono- or polycyclic heterocyclic group, which heterocyclic group is optionally substituted one or more times with substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, hydroxy-alkyl, alkoxy-alkyl, carboxyl and acyl, or

25  $R^6$  and  $R^7$  together with the nitrogen to which they are attached form a mono- or polycyclic heterocyclic group, which heterocyclic group is optionally substituted one or more times with substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, hydroxy-alkyl, alkoxy-alkyl, carboxyl and acyl; and

30  $R''$  represents  $-(alkyl)_o\text{-Heterocycle}$  or  $-(alkyl)_o\text{-CO}_2\text{-(alkyl)}_u\text{-Heterocycle}$ , wherein

$o$  and  $u$  independently of each another is 0 or 1, and

“Heterocycle” represents a mono- or polycyclic heterocyclic group, which heterocyclic group is optionally substituted one or more times with substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, cyano, hydroxy-alkyl, alkoxy-alkyl, carboxyl, and acyl, and a group of the formula  $-(alkyl)_p\text{-CN}$ ,  $-(alkyl)_p\text{-aryl}$ ,  $-(alkyl)_p\text{-aralkyl}$ ,  $-(alkyl)_p\text{-O-aryl}$ ,  $-(alkyl)_p\text{-O-aralkyl}$ ,  $-(alkyl)_p\text{-CO}_2\text{-aryl}$ ,  $-(alkyl)_p\text{-}$

$\text{CO}_2$ -aralkyl,  $-(\text{alkyl})_p$ -“Heterocycle”,  $-(\text{alkyl})_p\text{-CO}_2$ -“Heterocycle” or  $-(\text{alkyl-CO}_2)_s$  $-(\text{alkyl})_t$ - $\text{COR}^5$ ,

in which formulas

$p$ ,  $s$  and  $t$  independently of each other is 0 or 1,

5 “Heterocycle” represents a mono- or polycyclic heterocyclic group, which heterocyclic group is optionally substituted one or more times with substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, cyano, hydroxy-alkyl, alkoxy-alkyl, carboxyl and acyl,

10  $\text{R}^5$  represents hydrogen, hydroxy, alkyl, alkoxy, hydroxy-alkyl, hydroxy-alkoxy, alkoxy-alkyl, alkoxy-alkoxy, thioalkoxy-alkyl, thioalkoxy-alkoxy, or a group of the formula  $-\text{NR}^6\text{R}^7$  or  $-\text{O-alkyl-NR}^6\text{R}^7$ ,

in which formulas

15  $\text{R}^6$  and  $\text{R}^7$  independently of each other represent hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl or a mono- or polycyclic heterocyclic group, which heterocyclic group is optionally substituted one or more times with substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, hydroxy-alkyl, alkoxy-alkyl, carboxyl and acyl, or

20  $\text{R}^6$  and  $\text{R}^7$  together with the nitrogen to which they are attached form a mono- or polycyclic heterocyclic group, which heterocyclic group is optionally substituted one or more times with substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, hydroxy-alkyl, alkoxy-alkyl, carboxyl and acyl; or

25  $\text{R}''$  represents  $-(\text{alkyl})_m\text{-CO}_2\text{R}^8$ ,

wherein

$m$  is 0 or 1, and

25  $\text{R}^8$  represents hydrogen, alkyl, hydroxy-alkyl, alkoxy-alkyl, thioalkoxy-alkyl, or a group of the formula  $-(\text{alkyl})_p\text{-NR}^9\text{R}^{10}$ ,

wherein

$p$  is 0 or 1, and

30  $\text{R}^9$  and  $\text{R}^{10}$  independently of each other represent hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, or a mono- or polycyclic heterocyclic group, which heterocyclic group is optionally substituted one or more times with substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, hydroxy-alkyl, alkoxy-alkyl, carboxyl and acyl, or

35  $\text{R}^9$  and  $\text{R}^{10}$  together with the nitrogen to which they are attached form a mono- or polycyclic heterocyclic group, which heterocyclic group is optionally substituted one or more times with substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, hydroxy-alkyl, alkoxy-alkyl, carboxyl and acyl.

In a preferred embodiment the benzimidazole derivative of the invention is represented by Formula I, wherein  $\text{R}''$  represents

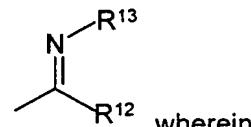
2-(4-acetyl-piperazin-1-yl)-ethoxy-carbonyl;  
 pyridin-2-yl-methoxy-carbonyl;  
 1-Methyl-2-pyrrolidyl-methoxy-carbonyl; or  
 3,5-dimethyl-1-piperazinyl-ethoxy-carbonyl.

5 In a most preferred embodiment, the benzimidazole derivative is  
 2-(1-Acetyl-4-piperazinyl)-ethyl 3-(5-(3-furanyl)-1-benzimidazolyl)-benzoate;  
 1-Methyl-2-pyrrolidylmethyl 3-(5-(3-furanyl)-1-benzimidazolyl)-benzoate;  
 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

10 In another preferred embodiment the benzimidazole derivative of the  
 invention is a compound of Formula I, wherein

$R^1$  represents a group of the formula  $-CO_2R^2$ , wherein

$R^2$  represents alkyl, hydroxy-alkyl, alkoxy-alkyl, thioalkoxy-alkyl, alkyl-  
 $N(alkyl)_2$ ; or



$R^1$  represents a group of the formula

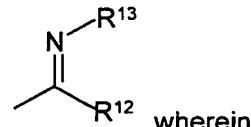
15  $R^1$  represents alkyl, and

$R^{13}$  represents hydroxy, or alkoxy; or

$R^1$  represents a furanyl group, a pyrazolyl group, an isoxazolyl group, an  
 oxazolyl group, an oxadiazolyl group.

In a more preferred embodiment

20  $R^1$  represents a group of the formula  $-COOH$ ,  $-CO_2-CH_3$ ,  $-CO_2-C_2H_5$ ,  $-CO_2-$   
 $CH_2-CH(OH)$ ,  $-CO_2(CH_2)_2OCH_3$ ,  $-CO_2(CH_2)_2SCH_3$ ,  $-CO_2(CH_2)_2SC_2H_5$ , or  
 $-CO_2(CH_2)_2N(CH_3)_2$ ; or



$R^1$  represents a group of the formula

25  $R^12$  represents methyl or ethyl, and

$R^{13}$  represents hydroxy, methoxy or ethoxy; or

$R^1$  represents a 2- or 3-furanyl group.

In a most preferred embodiment, the benzimidazole derivative is

2-(3,5-dimethyl-1-piperazinyl)-ethyl 3-(5-acetylbenzimidazol-1-yl)-benzoate  
 oxime; or

30 2-(2-pyridyl)-methyl 3-(5-acetylbenzimidazol-1-yl)-benzoate oxime;  
 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

In another preferred embodiment the benzimidazole derivative of the  
 invention is represented by Formula I, wherein

R" represents a group of the formula -(alkyl)<sub>o</sub> "Heterocycle", wherein  
o is 0 or 1, and

"Heterocycle" represents a furanyl group, a 2H-furanyl group, a 4H-furanyl group, a thienyl group, a pyrrolyl group, a 2H-pyrrolyl (pyrrolinyl) group, a 4H-pyrrolyl (pyrrolidinyl) group, an imidazolyl group, an oxazolyl group, a 2H-oxazolyl (oxazolinyl) group, a 4H-oxazolyl (oxazolidinyl) group, an isoxazolyl group, a 2H-isoxazolyl (isoxazolinyl) group, a 4H-isoxazolyl (isoxazolidinyl) group, an oxadiazolyl group, a 2H-oxadiazolyl (oxadiazolinyl) group, a 4H-oxadiazolyl (oxadiazolidinyl) group, a morpholinyl group, a thiomorpholinyl group, a pyridinyl group, a piperidinyl group, a 10 piperazine group, a homopiperazine group or a tetrazolyl group, which heterocyclic groups may be substituted one or more times with substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, alkyl, oxo, acyl, alkyl-CO<sub>2</sub>H, alkyl-CO<sub>2</sub>-alkyl -(alkyl)<sub>p</sub>-CO<sub>2</sub>-aryl, -(alkyl)<sub>p</sub>-CO<sub>2</sub>-aralkyl and alkyl-CO<sub>2</sub>-alkyl-CONR<sup>6</sup>R<sup>7</sup>, wherein

R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>7</sup> independently of each other represent hydrogen or alkyl.

15 In a more preferred embodiment,

"Heterocycle" represents a pyrrolidin-1-yl; a piperazin-1-yl; a homopiperazin-1-yl; an imidazol-1-yl; a pyridin-4-yl; a 4H-pyridin-4-yl, in particular a 1,2,5,6-tetrahydro-pyridin-4-yl; a piperidin-4-yl; a 2H-isoxazol-3-yl, in particular a 4,5-dihydro-isoxazol-3-yl.

20 In a further preferred embodiment the benzimidazole derivative of the invention is represented by Formula I, wherein R"

4-ethoxycarbonyl-1-imidazolyl;

4-methoxycarbonyl-1-imidazolyl;

5-((N,N-Diethylcarbamoyl)-methoxy-carbonyl-methyl)-4,5-dihydroisoxazol-

25 3-yl;

5-((N,N-Dimethylcarbamoyl)-methoxy-carbonyl-methyl)-4,5-dihydroisoxazol-

3-yl;

1-imidazolylmethyl;

4-(1-methyl-5-tetrazolyl)-methyl-1-piperazinyl;

30 1-ethyl-1,2,5,6-tetrahydropyridin-4-yl;

4-(2-oxazolidinone-5-yl)-methyl-1-piperazinyl;

4-(5-methyloxadiazol-3-yl)-methyl-1-piperazinyl;

4-(3,5-dimethylisoxazol-4-yl)-methyl-1-piperazinyl;

4-(2-oxo-tetrahydrofuran-3-yl)-1-piperazinyl;

35 4-(2-chloro-5-thienyl)-methyl-1-piperazinyl; or

(1-methyl-2-pyrrolidyl)-methyl-carbonyl.

In a most preferred embodiment the benzimidazole derivative of the invention is

2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-methoxycarbonyl-1-imidazolyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

(N,N-Diethylcarbamoyl)-methyl 2-(3-[3-(5-ethoxycarbonyl-1-benzimidazolyl)-phenyl]-4,5-dihydroisoxazol-5-yl)-acetate;

5 Methyl 1-(3-(1-imidazolylmethyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

2-(Methylthio)-ethyl 1-(3-(1-imidazolylmethyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-(1-methyl-5-tetrazolyl)methyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

10 2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(1-ethyl-1,2,5,6-tetrahydropyridin-4-yl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-(2-oxazolidinone-5-yl)-methyl)1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

15 2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-(5-methyloxadiazol-3-yl)-methyl)1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-(3,5-dimethylisoxazol-4-yl)methyl)1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-(2-oxo-tetrahydrofuran-3-yl)-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

20 2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-(2-chloro-5-thienyl)-methyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

5-(3-Furanyl)-1-(3-(4-methoxycarbonyl-1-imidazolyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole;

or

25 N,N-Diethylcarbamoylmethyl 2-(3-(3-(5-(3-furanyl)-1-benzimidazolyl)-phenyl)-4,5-dihydroisoxazole-5-yl)-acetate;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

In another preferred embodiment the benzimidazole derivative of the invention is represented by Formula I wherein

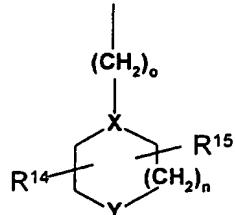
30 R" represents a group of the formula  $-\text{CO}_2\text{-(alkyl)}_o\text{-Heterocycle}$ , wherein  
o is 0 or 1, and

"Heterocycle" represents a pyrrolyl group, a 2H-pyrrolyl (pyrrolinyl) group, a 4H-pyrrolyl (pyrrolidinyl) group, an imidazolyl group, an oxazolyl group, an isoxazolyl group, a 2H-isoxazolyl (isoxazolinyl) group, a 4H-isoxazolyl (isoxazolidinyl) group, an oxadiazolyl group, a pyridyl group, a piperidinyl group, a piperazine group or a homopiperazine group, which heterocyclic groups may be substituted one or more times with substituents selected from the group consisting of alkyl, acyl, alkyl- $\text{CO}_2\text{H}$ , alkyl- $\text{CO}_2\text{-alkyl}$  and alkyl- $\text{CO}_2\text{-alkyl-CONR}^6\text{R}^7$ , wherein

35  $\text{R}^6$  and  $\text{R}^7$  independently of each other represent hydrogen or alkyl.

In a more preferred embodiment the benzimidazole derivative of the invention is represented by Formula I, wherein

R" represents a group of the formula



5 in which formula

o is 0 or 1,

n is 0, 1 or 2,

X represents N or CH,

Y represents O, NR<sup>11</sup> or CHR<sup>11</sup>,

10 wherein R<sup>11</sup> represents hydrogen, alkyl, hydroxy-alkyl, alkoxy-alkyl, carboxyl or acyl, or a group of the formula -(alkyl)<sub>p</sub>-CN, -(alkyl)<sub>p</sub>-aryl, -(alkyl)<sub>p</sub>-O-aryl, -(alkyl)<sub>p</sub>-O-aralkyl, -(alkyl)<sub>p</sub>-"Heterocycle", -(alkyl)<sub>p</sub>-CO<sub>2</sub>-"Heterocycle" or -(alkyl-CO<sub>2</sub>)<sub>s</sub>-(alkyl)<sub>t</sub>-COR<sup>5</sup>,

wherein

15 p, s and t independently of each other is 0 or 1,

"Heterocycle" represents a mono- or polycyclic heterocyclic group, which heterocyclic group is optionally substituted one or more times with substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, cyano, hydroxy-alkyl, alkoxy-alkyl, carboxyl and acyl,

20 R<sup>5</sup> represents hydroxy, alkoxy, hydroxy-alkoxy, alkoxy-alkoxy, thioalkoxy-alkoxy, aryl or aralkyl, or a group of the formula -NR<sup>6</sup>R<sup>7</sup> or -O-alkyl-NR<sup>6</sup>R<sup>7</sup>, in which formulas

25 R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>7</sup> independently of each other represents hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl or a mono- or polycyclic heterocyclic group, which heterocyclic group is optionally substituted one or more times with substituents selected from the group consisting of alkyl, and acyl, or

30 R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>7</sup> together with the nitrogen to which they are attached form a mono- or polycyclic heterocyclic group, which heterocyclic group may be substituted one or more times with substituents selected from the group consisting of alkyl and acyl, and

R<sup>14</sup> and R<sup>15</sup> independently of each other represent hydrogen, alkyl, hydroxy-alkyl, alkoxy-alkyl, carboxyl or acyl; or

R" represents a group of the formula -CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, wherein

$R^8$  represents alkyl- $NR^9R^{10}$ , wherein

$R^9$  and  $R^{10}$  together with the nitrogen to which they are attached form a pyrrolidine or a piperazine group, which group may be substituted one or more times with substituents selected from the group consisting of alkyl and acyl.

5 In an even more preferred embodiment the benzimidazole derivative of the invention is represented by Formula I, wherein  $R''$  represents

4-methoxycarbonyl-methyl-3,5-dimethyl-1-piperazinyl;

4-ethoxycarbonyl-methyl-3,5-dimethyl-1-piperazinyl;

4-methyl-3,5-dimethyl-1-piperazinyl;

10 4-ethyl-3,5-dimethyl-1-piperazinyl; or

3,5-dimethyl-1-piperazinyl.

In a most preferred embodiment the benzimidazole derivative of the invention is

2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-ethoxycarbonylmethyl-3,5-dimethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

2-Methyl 1-(3-(4-ethoxycarbonylmethyl-3,5-dimethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-ethyl-3,5-dimethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

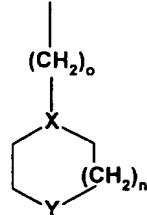
20 2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(3,5-dimethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate; or

2-(3,5-dimethyl-1-piperazinyl)-ethyl 3-(5-acetylbenzimidazol-1-yl)-benzoate oxime;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

25 In yet another preferred embodiment the benzimidazole derivative of the invention is represented by Formula I wherein

$R''$  represents a group of the formula



in which formula

30  $o$  is 0 or 1,

$n$  is 0, 1 or 2,

$X$  represents N or CH, and

$Y$  represents  $NR^{11}$  or  $CHR^{11}$ , wherein

$R^{11}$  represents hydrogen, alkyl, hydroxy-alkyl, carboxy, acyl, or a group of the formula  $-(\text{alkyl})_p\text{-CN}$ ,  $-(\text{alkyl})_p\text{-aryl}$ ,  $-(\text{alkyl})_p\text{-O-aryl}$ ,  $-(\text{alkyl})_p\text{-O-aralkyl}$ ,  $-(\text{alkyl})_t\text{-COR}^5$  or  $-(\text{alkyl})_t\text{-R}^5$ ,

wherein

5  $p$  and  $t$  independently of each other is 0 or 1, and  
 $R^5$  represents hydroxy, alkoxy,  $\text{NH}_2$ ,  $\text{NH}(\text{alkyl})$  or  $\text{N}(\text{alkyl})_2$ .

In a more preferred embodiment,

10  $R''$  represents

4-(methoxy-carbonyl)-1-piperazinylmethyl;  
4-(ethoxy-carbonyl)-1-piperazinylmethyl;  
4-(methoxy-carbonyl-methyl)-1-piperazinyl;  
4-(ethoxy-carbonyl-methyl)-1-piperazinyl;  
4-(methoxy-carbonyl-methyl)-1-piperazinylmethyl;  
4-(ethoxy-carbonyl-methyl)-1-piperazinylmethyl;

15 1-piperazinyl;  
1-piperazinyl-methyl;  
4-acetyl-1-piperazinyl;  
4-methyl-1-piperazinyl;  
4-ethyl-1-piperazinyl;

20 1-methyl-4-piperidinyl;  
1-acetyl-4-piperidinyl;  
1-methyl-4-piperidyl;  
1-acetyl-4-piperidyl;  
4-*tert*-butoxycarbonylmethyl-1-piperazinyl;

25 4-isopropoxycarbonylmethyl-1-piperazinyl;  
4-carboxymethyl-1-piperazinyl;  
4-benzyl-1-piperazinyl;  
4-cyanomethyl-1-piperazinyl;  
4-benzyloxy-ethyl-1-piperazinyl;

30 4-ethyl-1-homopiperazinyl;  
4-(2-hydroxy-ethyl)-1-piperazinyl;  
4-carbamoylmethyl-1-piperazinyl;  
4-dimethylcarbamoylmethyl-1-piperazinyl; or  
4-diethylcarbamoylmethyl-1-piperazinyl.

35 In a most preferred embodiment, the benzimidazole derivative of the invention is

2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-(ethoxy-carbonyl)-1-piperazinylmethyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-(ethoxy-carbonyl-methyl)-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-carboxymethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

5 2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-methyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-acetyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

10 2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(1-methyl-4-piperidyl)phenyl)benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(1-acetyl-4-piperidyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

15 2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-*t*-butoxycarbonylmethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-*i*-propoxycarbonylmethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

20 2-[4-(3-(5-Methoxycarbonylbenzimidazol-1-yl)-phenyl)-1-piperazinyl]-acetic acid;

2-(Methylthio)-ethyl 1-(3-(4-methyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

25 2-(N,N-dimethylamino)-ethyl 1-(3-(1-carboxymethyl-4-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-benzyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

30 25 Methyl 1-(3-(4-cyanomethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-cyanomethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

Methyl 1-(3-(4-benzyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

35 2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-benzyloxyethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-ethyl-1-homopiperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

2-Methyl 1-(3-(4-ethyl-1-homopiperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-ethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

2-Hydroxyethyl 1-(3-(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

Methyl 1-(3-(1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;  
2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;  
2-Hydroxyethyl 1-(3-(4-methyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-  
carboxylate;  
5 2-Hydroxyethyl 1-(3-(4-methoxycarbonylmethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-  
benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;  
2-Hydroxyethyl 1-(3-(4-ethoxycarbonylmethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-  
benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;  
2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-diethylcarbamoylmethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-  
10 benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;  
2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-methoxycarbonylmethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-  
benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;  
2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-carbamoylmethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-  
benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;  
15 2-Hydroxyethyl 1-(3-(4-carbamoylmethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-  
benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;  
2-Hydroxyethyl 1-(3-(4-diethylcarbamoylmethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-  
benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;  
2-Hydroxyethyl 1-(3-(4-carboxymethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-  
20 benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;  
5-(3-Furanyl)-1-(3-((4-ethoxycarbonyl-1-piperazinyl)-methyl)-phenyl)-  
benzimidazole;  
5-(3-Furanyl)-1-(3-(1-(ethoxy-carbonyl-methyl)-4-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-  
benzimidazole;  
25 5-(3-Furanyl)-1-(3-(4-t-butoxycarbonylmethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-  
benzimidazole;  
5-(3-Furanyl)-1-(3-(1-ethoxycarbonylmethyl-4-piperazinylmethyl)-phenyl)-  
benzimidazole;  
5-(3-Furanyl)-1-(3-(1-ethoxycarbonylmethyl-4-piperidyl)-phenyl)-  
30 benzimidazole;  
5-(3-Furanyl)-1-(3-(4-ethoxycarbonylpiperid-1-ylmethyl)-phenyl)-  
benzimidazole; or  
5-(3-Furanyl)-1-(3-(1-ethoxycarbonyl-4-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole;  
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

35

Definition of Substituents

In the context of this invention halogen represents a fluorine, a chlorine, a bromine or an iodine atom.

In the context of this invention an alkyl group designates a univalent saturated, straight or branched hydrocarbon chain. The hydrocarbon chain preferably consists of from one to eight carbon atoms (C<sub>1-8</sub>-alkyl), more preferred from one to six carbon atoms (C<sub>1-6</sub>-alkyl), including pentyl, isopentyl, neopentyl, 5 tertiary pentyl, hexyl and isohexyl. In a preferred embodiment alkyl represents a C<sub>1-4</sub>-alkyl group, including butyl, isobutyl, secondary butyl, and tertiary butyl. In a preferred embodiment of this invention alkyl represents a C<sub>1-3</sub>-alkyl group, which may in particular be methyl, ethyl, propyl or isopropyl.

In the context of this invention a cycloalkyl group designates a cyclic alkyl 10 group, preferably containing of from three to seven carbon atoms (C<sub>3-7</sub>-cycloalkyl), including cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl and cycloheptyl.

In the context of this invention an alkenyl group designates a carbon chain containing one or more double bonds, including di-enes, tri-enes and poly-enes. In a preferred embodiment the alkenyl group of the invention comprises of 15 from two to six carbon atoms (C<sub>2-6</sub>-alkenyl), including at least one double bond. In a most preferred embodiment the alkenyl group of the invention is ethenyl; 1,2- or 2,3-propenyl; or 1,2-, 2,3-, or 3,4-butenyl.

In the context of this invention an alkynyl group designates a carbon chain containing one or more triple bonds, including di-ynes, tri-ynes and poly-ynes. In a 20 preferred embodiment the alkynyl group of the invention comprises of from two to six carbon atoms (C<sub>2-6</sub>-alkynyl), including at least one triple bond. In its most preferred embodiment the alkynyl group of the invention is ethynyl, 1,2- or 2,3-propynyl, 1,2-, 2,3- or 3,4-butynyl.

In the context of this invention an alkoxy-alkyl group designates an "alkyl- 25 O-alkyl-" group, wherein alkyl is as defined above.

In the context of this invention a thioalkoxy-alkyl group designates an "alkyl-S-alkyl" group wherein alkyl is as defined above;

In the context of this invention an alkoxyalkoxy group designates O-alkyl-O-alkyl wherein alkyl is as defined above.

30 In the context of this invention an thioalkoxy-alkoxy group designates O-alkyl-S-alkyl wherein alkyl is as defined above.

In the context of this invention an acyl group designates a carboxy group (HOOC-), an alkyl-carbonyl group (alkyl-CO-), or a cycloalkyl-carbonyl (cycloalkyl-CO-), wherein alkyl and cycloalkyl are as defined above. Examples of preferred acyl 35 groups of the invention include carboxy, acetyl, and propionyl.

In the context of this invention an aryl group designates a monocyclic or polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon group. Examples of preferred aryl groups of the invention include phenyl, naphthyl and anthracenyl.

In the context of this invention an aralkyl group designates a mono- or polycyclic aryl group as defined above, which aryl group is attached to an alkyl group as also defined above. Examples of preferred aralkyl groups of the invention include benzyl, and phenethyl.

5 In the context of this invention a "Heterocycle" designates a mono- or polycyclic heterocyclic group, which is a mono- or polycyclic group, and which group holds one or more heteroatoms in its ring structure. Preferred heteroatoms include nitrogen (N), oxygen (O), and sulphur (S). One or more of the ring structures may in particular be aromatic (i.e. a heteroaryl), saturated or partially saturated. Preferred 10 heterocyclic monocyclic groups of the invention include 5- and 6-membered heterocyclic monocyclic groups. Preferred poly-heterocyclic groups of the invention are the bicyclic heterocyclic groups.

Examples of preferred aromatic heterocyclic 5-membered monocyclic groups of the invention include

- 15 furan, in particular 2- or 3-furanyl;
- thiophene, in particular 2- or 3-thienyl;
- pyrrole (azole), in particular 1-, 2- or 3-pyrrolyl;
- oxazole, in particular oxazol-(2-,4- or 5-)yl;
- thiazole, in particular thiazol-(2-,4-, or 5-)yl;
- 20 imidazole, in particular imidazol-(1-,2-,4- or 5-)yl;
- pyrazole, in particular pyrazol-(1-,3-,4- or 5-)yl;
- isoxazole, in particular isoxazol-(3-,4- or 5-)yl;
- isothiazole, in particular isothiazol-(3-,4- or 5-)yl;
- 1,2,3-oxadiazole, in particular 1,2,3-oxadiazol-(4- or 5-)yl;
- 25 1,2,4-oxadiazole, in particular 1,2,4-oxadiazol-(3- or 5-)yl;
- 1,2,5-oxadiazole, in particular 1,2,5-oxadiazol-(3- or 4-)yl;
- 1,2,3-triazole, in particular 1,2,3-triazol-(1-,4- or 5-)yl;
- 1,2,4-thiadiazole, in particular 1,2,4-thiadiazol-(3- or 5-)yl;
- 1,2,5-thiadiazole, in particular 1,2,5-thiadiazol-(3- or 4-)yl; and
- 30 1,3,4-thiadiazole, in particular 1,3,4-thiadiazol-(2- or 5-)yl.

Examples of preferred saturated or partially saturated heterocyclic monocyclic 5-membered groups of the invention include

- 1,3-dioxolan, in particular 1,3-dioxolan-(2- or 4-)yl;
- imidazolidine, in particular imidazolidin-(1-,2-,3-,4- or 5-)yl;
- 35 2-imidazoline, in particular 2-imidazolin-(1-,2-,4- or 5-)yl;
- 3-imidazoline, in particular 3-imidazolin-(1-,2-,4- or 5-)yl;
- 4-imidazoline, in particular 4-imidazolin-(1-,2-,4- or 5-)yl;
- 2H-oxazole (oxazoline), in particular 2H-oxazol-(2-,4- or 5-)yl;
- 4H-oxazole (oxazolidine), in particular 4H-oxazol-(2-,4- or 5-)yl;

1,2,3-oxadiazoline, in particular 1,2,3-oxadiazol-(4- or 5-)yl;  
1,2,4-oxadiazoline, in particular 1,2,4-oxadiazol-(3- or 5-)yl;  
1,2,5-oxadiazoline, in particular 1,2,5-oxadiazol-(3- or 4-)yl;  
1,2,3-oxadiazolidine, in particular 1,2,3-oxadiazol-(4- or 5-)yl;  
5 1,2,4-oxadiazolidine, in particular 1,2,4-oxadiazol-(3- or 5-)yl;  
1,2,5-oxadiazolidine, in particular 1,2,5-oxadiazol-(3- or 4-)yl;  
2H-pyrrole (pyrroline), in particular 2H-pyrrol-(1-,2- or 3-)yl;  
4H-pyrrole (pyrrolidine), in particular 4H-pyrrol-(1-,2- or 3-)yl;  
pyrazolidine, in particular pyrazolidin-(1-,2-,3-,4- or 5-)yl;  
10 2-pyrazoline, in particular 2-pyrazolin-(1-,3-,4- or 5-)yl; and  
3-pyrazoline, in particular 3-pyrazolin-(1-,3-,4- or 5-)yl.

Examples of preferred aromatic heterocyclic 6-membered monocyclic groups of the invention include

15 pyridine, in particular pyridin-(2-,3- or 4-)yl;  
pyridazine, in particular pyridazin-(3- or 4-)yl;  
pyrimidine, in particular pyrimidin-(2-,4- or 5-)yl;  
pyrazine, in particular pyrazin-(2-,3-,5- or 6-)yl;  
1,3,5-triazine, in particular 1,3,5-triazin-(2-,4- or 6-)yl; and  
phosphinine, in particular phosphinin-(2-,3- or 4-)yl.

20 Examples of preferred saturated or partially saturated heterocyclic monocyclic 6-membered groups of the invention include

1,4-dioxolane, in particular 1,4-dioxolan-(2- or 3-)yl;  
1,4-dithiane, in particular 1,4-dithian-(2- or 3-)yl;  
morpholine, in particular morpholin-(2-,3- or 4-)yl;  
25 1,4-oxazine, in particular 1,4-oxazin-(2-)yl;  
oxadiazine, in particular oxadiazin-(2-,3- or 5-)yl;  
piperidine, in particular piperidin-(1-,2-,3- or 4-)yl;  
piperazine, in particular piperazin-(1-,2-,3- or 4-)yl;  
2H-pyrane, in particular 2H-pyran-(2-,3- or 4-)yl;  
30 4H-pyrane, in particular 4H-pyran-(2-,3- or 4-)yl;  
thiomorpholine, in particular thiomorpholin-(2-,3- or 4-)yl; and  
1,3,5-trithiane, in particular 1,3,5-trithian-(2-)yl.

Examples of preferred saturated or partially saturated heterocyclic monocyclic 7-membered groups of the invention include

35 homopiperidine, in particular homopiperidin-(1-,2-,3- or 4-)yl; and  
homopiperazine, in particular homopiperazin-(1-,2-,3- or 4-)yl.

Examples of preferred aromatic heterocyclic bi-cyclic groups of the invention include

indolizine, in particular indolizin-(1-,2-,3-,5-,6-,7- or 8-)yl;

indole, in particular indol-(1-,2-,3-,4-,5-,6- or 7-)yl;  
isoindole, in particular isoindol-(1-,2-,3-,4-,5-,6- or 7-)yl;  
benzo[b]furan (benzofuran), in particular benzo[b]furan-(2-,3-,4-,5-,6- or 7-)yl;  
5 benzo[c]furan (isobenzofuran), in particular benzo[c]furan-(1-,3-,4-,5-,6- or 7-)yl;  
benzo[b]thiophene (benzothiophene), in particular benzo[b]thiophen-(2-,3-,4-,5-,6- or 7-)yl;  
benzo[c]thiophene (isobenzothiophene), in particular benzo[c]thiophen-10 (1-,3-,4-,5-,6- or 7-)yl;  
benzimidazole, in particular benzimidazol-(1-,2-,4-,5-,6- or 7-)yl;  
benzthiazole, in particular benzthiazol-(2-,4-,5-,6- or 7-)yl;  
purine, in particular purin-(2-,6- or 8-)yl;  
quinoline, in particular quinolin-(2-,3-,4-,5-,6-,7- or 8-)yl;  
15 isoquinoline, in particular isoquinolin-(1-,3-,4-,5-,6-,7- or 8-)yl;  
cinnoline, in particular cinnolin-(3-,4-,5-,6-,7- or 8-)yl;  
phthiazine, in particular phthiazin-(1-,4-,5-,6-,7- or 8-)yl;  
quinazoline, in particular quinazolin-(2-,4-,5-,6-,7- or 8-)yl;  
quinoxaline, in particular quinoxalin-(2-,3-,5-,6-,7- or 8-)yl;  
20 1,8-naphthyridine, in particular 1,8-naphthyridin-(2-,3-,4-,5-,6- or 7-)yl; and  
pteridine, in particular pteridin-(2-,4-,6- or 7-)yl.

Examples of preferred aromatic heterocyclic tri-cyclic groups of the invention include

25 carbazole, in particular carbazol-(1-,2-,3-,4-,5-,6-,7-,8- or 9-)yl;  
acridine, in particular acridin-(1-,2-,3-,4-,5-,6-,7-,8- or 9-)yl;  
phenazine, in particular phenazin-(1-,2-,3-,4-,6-,7-,8- or 9-)yl;  
phenothiazine, in particular phenothiazin-(1-,2-,3-,4-,6-,7-,8-,9- or 10-)yl;

and

30 phenoxazine, in particular phenoxazin-(1-,2-,3-,4-,6-,7-,8-,9- or 10-)yl.

Examples of preferred saturated or partially saturated heterocyclic bi-cyclic groups of the invention include

35 indoline, in particular indolin-(1-,2-,3-,4-,5-,6- or 7-)yl;  
3H-indole, in particular 3H-indol-(2-,3-,4-,5-,6- or 7-)yl;  
1H-indazole, in particular 1H-indazol-(3-,4-,5-,6- or 7-)yl;  
4H-quinolizine, in particular 4H-quinolizin-(1-,2-,3-,4-,6-,7-,8- or 9-)yl;  
quinuclidine, in particular quinuclidin-(2-,3-,4-,5-,6-,7- or 8-)yl;  
isoquinuclidine, in particular isoquinuclidin-(1-,2-,3-,4-,5-,6-,7- or 8-)yl;  
tropane, in particular tropan-(1-,2-,3-,4-,5-,6-,7- or 8-)yl; and  
nortropane, in particular nortropan-(1-,2-,3-,4-,5-,6- or 7-)yl.

Pharmaceutically Acceptable Salts

The chemical compound of the invention may be provided in any form suitable for the intended administration. Suitable forms include pharmaceutically (i.e. 5 physiologically) acceptable salts, and pre- or prodrug forms of the chemical compound of the invention.

Examples of pharmaceutically acceptable addition salts include, without limitation, the non-toxic inorganic and organic acid addition salts such as the hydrochloride derived from hydrochloric acid, the hydrobromide derived from 10 hydrobromic acid, the nitrate derived from nitric acid, the perchlorate derived from perchloric acid, the phosphate derived from phosphoric acid, the sulphate derived from sulphuric acid, the formate derived from formic acid, the acetate derived from acetic acid, the aconate derived from aconitic acid, the ascorbate derived from ascorbic acid, the benzenesulphonate derived from benzenesulphonic acid, the 15 benzoate derived from benzoic acid, the cinnamate derived from cinnamic acid, the citrate derived from citric acid, the embonate derived from embonic acid, the enantate derived from enanthic acid, the fumarate derived from fumaric acid, the glutamate derived from glutamic acid, the glycolate derived from glycolic acid, the lactate derived from lactic acid, the maleate derived from maleic acid, the malonate derived from 20 malonic acid, the mandelate derived from mandelic acid, the methanesulphonate derived from methane sulphonic acid, the naphthalene-2-sulphonate derived from naphthalene-2-sulphonic acid, the phthalate derived from phthalic acid, the salicylate derived from salicylic acid, the sorbate derived from sorbic acid, the stearate derived from stearic acid, the succinate derived from succinic acid, the tartrate derived from 25 tartaric acid, the toluene-p-sulphonate derived from p-toluene sulphonic acid, and the like. Such salts may be formed by procedures well known and described in the art.

Other acids such as oxalic acid, which may not be considered pharmaceutically acceptable, may be useful in the preparation of salts useful as intermediates in obtaining a chemical compound of the invention and its 30 pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt.

Metal salts of a chemical compound of the invention includes alkali metal salts, such as the sodium salt of a chemical compound of the invention containing a carboxy group.

In the context of this invention the "onium salts" of N-containing compounds 35 are also contemplated as pharmaceutically acceptable salts. Preferred "onium salts" include the alkyl-onium salts, the cycloalkyl-onium salts, and the cycloalkylalkyl-onium salts.

The chemical compound of the invention may be provided in dissoluble or indissoluble forms together with a pharmaceutically acceptable solvents such as

water, ethanol, and the like. Dissoluble forms may also include hydrated forms such as the monohydrate, the dihydrate, the hemihydrate, the trihydrate, the tetrahydrate, and the like. In general, the dissoluble forms are considered equivalent to indissoluble forms for the purposes of this invention.

5

### Steric Isomers

The chemical compounds of the present invention may exist in (+) and (-) forms as well as in racemic forms. The racemates of these isomers and the individual isomers themselves are within the scope of the present invention.

10 Racemic forms can be resolved into the optical antipodes by known methods and techniques. One way of separating the diastereomeric salts is by use of an optically active acid, and liberating the optically active amine compound by treatment with a base. Another method for resolving racemates into the optical antipodes is based upon chromatography on an optical active matrix. Racemic 15 compounds of the present invention can thus be resolved into their optical antipodes, e.g., by fractional crystallisation of d- or l- (tartrates, mandelates, or camphorsulphonate) salts for example.

20 The chemical compounds of the present invention may also be resolved by the formation of diastereomeric amides by reaction of the chemical compounds of the present invention with an optically active activated carboxylic acid such as that derived from (+) or (-) phenylalanine, (+) or (-) phenylglycine, (+) or (-) camphanic acid or by the formation of diastereomeric carbamates by reaction of the chemical compound of the present invention with an optically active chloroformate or the like.

25 Additional methods for the resolving the optical isomers are known in the art. Such methods include those described by Jaques J, Collet A, & Wilen S in "Enantiomers, Racemates, and Resolutions", John Wiley and Sons, New York (1981).

Optical active compounds can also be prepared from optical active starting materials.

30 Moreover, some of the chemical compounds of the invention may exist in two forms, cis- and trans-form (Z- and E-form), depending on the arrangement of the substituents around the -C=C- double bond. A chemical compound of the present invention may thus be the cis- or the trans-form (Z- and E-form), or it may be a mixture hereof.

### 35 **Methods of Preparation**

The benzimidazole derivatives of the invention may be prepared by conventional methods for chemical synthesis, e.g. those described in the working examples. The starting materials for the processes described in the present

application are known or may readily be prepared by conventional methods from commercially available chemicals.

Also one compound of the invention can be converted to another compound of the invention using conventional methods.

5 The end products of the reactions described herein may be isolated by conventional techniques, e.g. by extraction, crystallisation, distillation, chromatography, etc.

### Pharmaceutical Compositions

10 In another aspect the invention provides novel pharmaceutical compositions comprising a therapeutically effective amount of the benzimidazole derivative of the invention.

15 While a chemical compound of the invention for use in therapy may be administered in the form of the raw chemical compound, it is preferred to introduce the active ingredient, optionally in the form of a physiologically acceptable salt, in a pharmaceutical composition together with one or more adjuvants, excipients, carriers, buffers, diluents, and/or other customary pharmaceutical auxiliaries.

20 In a preferred embodiment, the invention provides pharmaceutical compositions comprising the chemical compound of the invention, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or derivative thereof, together with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers therefor, and, optionally, other therapeutic and/or prophylactic ingredients. The carrier(s) must be "acceptable" in the sense of being compatible with the other ingredients of the formulation and not harmful to the recipient thereof.

25 Pharmaceutical compositions of the invention may be those suitable for oral, rectal, bronchial, nasal, topical (including buccal and sub-lingual), transdermal, vaginal or parenteral (including cutaneous, subcutaneous, intramuscular, intraperitoneal, intravenous, intraarterial, intracerebral, intraocular injection or infusion) administration, or those in a form suitable for administration by inhalation or 30 insufflation, including powders and liquid aerosol administration, or by sustained release systems. Suitable examples of sustained release systems include semi-permeable matrices of solid hydrophobic polymers containing the compound of the invention, which matrices may be in form of shaped articles, e.g. films or microcapsules.

35 The chemical compound of the invention, together with a conventional adjuvant, carrier, or diluent, may thus be placed into the form of pharmaceutical compositions and unit dosages thereof. Such forms include solids, and in particular tablets, filled capsules, powder and pellet forms, and liquids, in particular aqueous or non-aqueous solutions, suspensions, emulsions, elixirs, and capsules filled with the

same, all for oral use, suppositories for rectal administration, and sterile injectable solutions for parenteral use. Such pharmaceutical compositions and unit dosage forms thereof may comprise conventional ingredients in conventional proportions, with or without additional active compounds or principles, and such unit dosage forms may 5 contain any suitable effective amount of the active ingredient commensurate with the intended daily dosage range to be employed.

The chemical compound of the present invention can be administered in a wide variety of oral and parenteral dosage forms. It will be obvious to those skilled in the art that the following dosage forms may comprise, as the active component, either 10 a chemical compound of the invention or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of a chemical compound of the invention.

For preparing pharmaceutical compositions from a chemical compound of the present invention, pharmaceutically acceptable carriers can be either solid or liquid. Solid form preparations include powders, tablets, pills, capsules, cachets, 15 suppositories, and dispersible granules. A solid carrier can be one or more substances which may also act as diluents, flavouring agents, solubilizers, lubricants, suspending agents, binders, preservatives, tablet disintegrating agents, or an encapsulating material.

In powders, the carrier is a finely divided solid which is in a mixture with the 20 finely divided active component.

In tablets, the active component is mixed with the carrier having the necessary binding capacity in suitable proportions and compacted in the shape and size desired.

The powders and tablets preferably contain from five or ten to about 25 seventy percent of the active compound. Suitable carriers are magnesium carbonate, magnesium stearate, talc, sugar, lactose, pectin, dextrin, starch, gelatin, tragacanth, methylcellulose, sodium carboxymethylcellulose, a low melting wax, cocoa butter, and the like. The term "preparation" is intended to include the formulation of the active compound with encapsulating material as carrier providing a capsule in which the 30 active component, with or without carriers, is surrounded by a carrier, which is thus in association with it. Similarly, cachets and lozenges are included. Tablets, powders, capsules, pills, cachets, and lozenges can be used as solid forms suitable for oral administration.

For preparing suppositories, a low melting wax, such as a mixture of fatty 35 acid glyceride or cocoa butter, is first melted and the active component is dispersed homogeneously therein, as by stirring. The molten homogenous mixture is then poured into convenient sized moulds, allowed to cool, and thereby to solidify.

Compositions suitable for vaginal administration may be presented as pessaries, tampons, creams, gels, pastes, foams or sprays containing in addition to the active ingredient such carriers as are known in the art to be appropriate.

Liquid preparations include solutions, suspensions, and emulsions, for 5 example, water or water-propylene glycol solutions. For example, parenteral injection liquid preparations can be formulated as solutions in aqueous polyethylene glycol solution.

The chemical compound according to the present invention may thus be formulated for parenteral administration (e.g. by injection, for example bolus injection 10 or continuous infusion) and may be presented in unit dose form in ampoules, pre-filled syringes, small volume infusion or in multi-dose containers with an added preservative. The compositions may take such forms as suspensions, solutions, or emulsions in oily or aqueous vehicles, and may contain formulation agents such as suspending, stabilising and/or dispersing agents. Alternatively, the active ingredient 15 may be in powder form, obtained by aseptic isolation of sterile solid or by lyophilization from solution, for constitution with a suitable vehicle, e.g. sterile, pyrogen-free water, before use.

Aqueous solutions suitable for oral use can be prepared by dissolving the active component in water and adding suitable colorants, flavours, stabilising and 20 thickening agents, as desired.

Aqueous suspensions suitable for oral use can be made by dispersing the finely divided active component in water with viscous material, such as natural or synthetic gums, resins, methylcellulose, sodium carboxymethylcellulose, or other well known suspending agents.

25 Also included are solid form preparations which are intended to be converted, shortly before use, to liquid form preparations for oral administration. Such liquid forms include solutions, suspensions, and emulsions. These preparations may contain, in addition to the active component, colorants, flavours, stabilisers, buffers, artificial and natural sweeteners, dispersants, thickeners, solubilizing agents, and the 30 like.

For topical administration to the epidermis the compound of the invention may be formulated as ointments, creams or lotions, or as a transdermal patch. Ointments and creams may, for example, be formulated with an aqueous or oily base with the addition of suitable thickening and/or gelling agents. Lotions may be 35 formulated with an aqueous or oily base and will in general also contain one or more emulsifying agents, stabilising agents, dispersing agents, suspending agents, thickening agents, or colouring agents.

Compositions suitable for topical administration in the mouth include lozenges comprising the active agent in a flavoured base, usually sucrose and acacia

or tragacanth; pastilles comprising the active ingredient in an inert base such as gelatin and glycerine or sucrose and acacia; and mouthwashes comprising the active ingredient in a suitable liquid carrier.

Solutions or suspensions are applied directly to the nasal cavity by 5 conventional means, for example with a dropper, pipette or spray. The compositions may be provided in single or multi-dose form. In the latter case of a dropper or pipette, this may be achieved by the patient administering an appropriate, predetermined volume of the solution or suspension. In the case of a spray, this may be achieved for example by means of a metering atomising spray pump.

10 Administration to the respiratory tract may also be achieved by means of an aerosol formulation in which the active ingredient is provided in a pressurised pack with a suitable propellant such as a chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) for example dichlorodifluoromethane, trichlorofluoromethane, or dichlorotetrafluoroethane, carbon dioxide, or other suitable gas. The aerosol may conveniently also contain a surfactant 15 such as lecithin. The dose of drug may be controlled by provision of a metered valve.

Alternatively the active ingredients may be provided in the form of a dry powder, for example a powder mix of the compound in a suitable powder base such as lactose, starch, starch derivatives such as hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose and polyvinylpyrrolidone (PVP). Conveniently the powder carrier will form a gel in the nasal 20 cavity. The powder composition may be presented in unit dose form for example in capsules or cartridges of, e.g., gelatin, or blister packs from which the powder may be administered by means of an inhaler.

In compositions intended for administration to the respiratory tract, including intranasal compositions, the compound will generally have a small particle 25 size for example of the order of 5 microns or less. Such a particle size may be obtained by means known in the art, for example by micronization.

When desired, compositions adapted to give sustained release of the active ingredient may be employed.

The pharmaceutical preparations are preferably in unit dosage forms. In 30 such form, the preparation is subdivided into unit doses containing appropriate quantities of the active component. The unit dosage form can be a packaged preparation, the package containing discrete quantities of preparation, such as packaged tablets, capsules, and powders in vials or ampoules. Also, the unit dosage form can be a capsule, tablet, cachet, or lozenge itself, or it can be the appropriate 35 number of any of these in packaged form.

Tablets or capsules for oral administration and liquids for intravenous administration and continuous infusion are preferred compositions.

Further details on techniques for formulation and administration may be found in the latest edition of Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences (Maack Publishing Co., Easton, PA).

A therapeutically effective dose refers to that amount of active ingredient which ameliorates the symptoms or condition. Therapeutic efficacy and toxicity, e.g. ED<sub>50</sub> and LD<sub>50</sub>, may be determined by standard pharmacological procedures in cell cultures or experimental animals. The dose ratio between therapeutic and toxic effects is the therapeutic index and may be expressed by the ratio LD<sub>50</sub>/ED<sub>50</sub>. Pharmaceutical compositions which exhibit large therapeutic indexes are preferred.

10 The dose administered must of course be carefully adjusted to the age, weight and condition of the individual being treated, as well as the route of administration, dosage form and regimen, and the result desired, and the exact dosage should of course be determined by the practitioner.

15 The actual dosage depend on the nature and severity of the disease being treated and the route of administration, and is within the discretion of the physician, and may be varied by titration of the dosage to the particular circumstances of this invention to produce the desired therapeutic effect. However, it is presently contemplated that pharmaceutical compositions containing of from about 0.1 to about 500 mg of active ingredient per individual dose, preferably of from about 1 to about 20 100 mg, most preferred of from about 1 to about 10 mg, are suitable for therapeutic treatments.

25 The active ingredient may be administered in one or several doses per day. A satisfactory result can, in certain instances, be obtained at a dosage as low as 0.1 µg/kg i.v. and 1 µg/kg p.o. The upper limit of the dosage range is presently considered to be about 10 mg/kg i.v. and 100 mg/kg p.o. Preferred ranges are from about 0.1 µg/kg to about 10 mg/kg/day i.v., and from about 1 µg/kg to about 100 mg/kg/day p.o.

As the preferred way of administration is intravenous and by infusion the dose ranges are from 0.01µg/kg/h to about 10 mg/kg/h.

### 30 Biological Activity

It is an object of the present invention to provide compounds capable of modulating the GABA<sub>A</sub> receptor complex, which object is met by the provision of the novel benzimidazole derivatives of Formula I.

35 The benzimidazole derivatives of the invention are particularly useful as anaesthetics and/or pre-anaesthetics, for inducing and maintaining anaesthesia, as sedatives, as muscle relaxants, and for combating febrile convulsions in children, status epilepticus, for use to patients constrained to a respirator.

The benzimidazole derivatives of the invention show a short duration of action, they are water soluble at therapeutic relevant doses, and are particular well suited for intravenous administration.

The compounds of the invention may also be used by veterinarians.

5 As demonstrated in the working examples the benzimidazole derivatives of the invention show high to moderate affinity for the benzodiazepine receptor as measured by displacement at  $^3\text{H}$ -flunitrazepam *in vitro* as well as *in vivo*. The most preferred compounds are full agonists i.e. they exert a high maximal effect in the seizure test as described in the application.

10 Preferred compounds are full agonists on the GABA<sub>A</sub> receptor complex, e.g. as measured by the anticonvulsant activity in the ptz-test described in Example 14, and give rise to a 2-5 fold increase of the tolerated ptz dose. The most preferred compounds are those which increase the tolerated dose the most.

15 The benzimidazole derivatives of the invention show half-lives of below 30 minutes, which allows for a short duration of action. Preferred half-lives are in the range of from about 30 seconds to about 20 minutes. Most preferred half-lives are in the range of from about 2 to about 5 minutes.

16 The preferred compounds induce a rapid onset of anaesthesia, i.e. in less than 1-2 minutes. Most preferred is an onset of anaesthesia in less than 1 minute.

20 Awakening from anaesthesia following a bolus injection (i.v.), or following the attenuation of an infusion, should occur within a short period of time, i.e. of from about 5 to about 30 minutes, preferably of from about 5 to about 10 minutes, after which time the patient should normalise rapidly, i.e. in less than 40 minutes, preferably in less than 20 minutes, as measured from awakening.

25 The compounds of this invention can be used together with analgetic compounds such as Remifentanile, Fentanyl, or other opioids.

### Methods of Therapy

In another aspect the invention provides a method for the treatment, 30 prevention or alleviation of a disease or a disorder or a condition of a living animal body, including a human, which disease, disorder or condition is responsive to modulation of the GABA receptor complex, and which method comprises administering to such a living animal body, including a human, in need thereof an effective amount of benzimidazole derivative of the invention.

35 In a more preferred embodiment the invention provides a method for the induction or maintenance of anaesthesia or pre-anaesthesia, muscle relaxation or sedation, or for the treatment, prevention or alleviation of fewer cramps or status epilepticus.

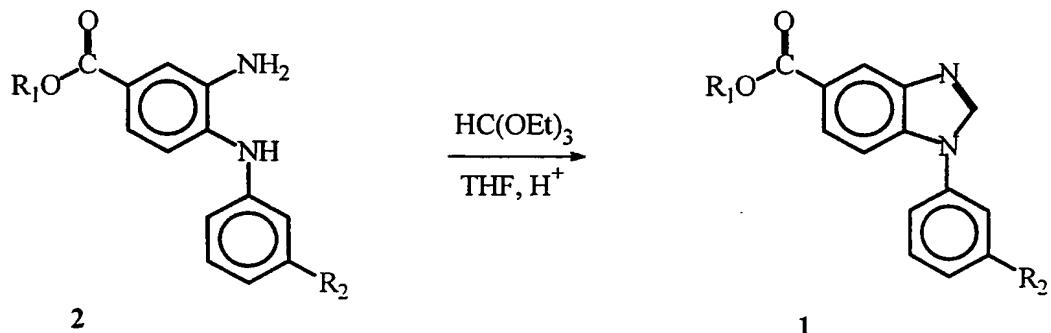
It is at present contemplated that suitable infusion rates are in the range of from about 0.01 to about 100 mg/kg/hour, more preferred of from about 0.1 to about 15 mg/kg/hour, dependent upon the exact mode of administration, form in which administered, the indication toward which the administration is directed, the subject involved and the body weight of the subject involved, and further the preference and experience of the physician or veterinarian in charge.

## EXAMPLES

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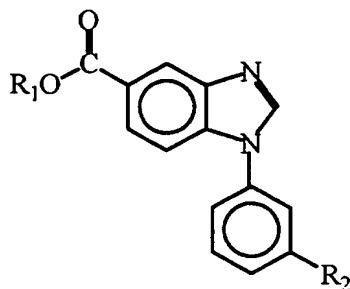
The invention is further illustrated with reference to the following examples which are not intended to be in any way limiting to the scope of the invention as claimed.

### 15 Example 1

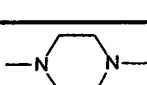
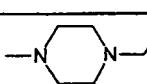
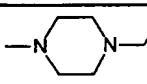
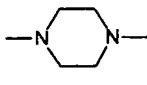
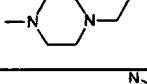
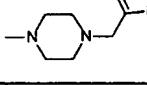
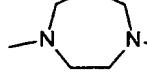
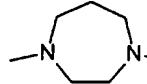
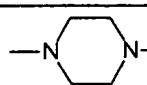
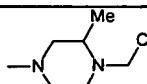
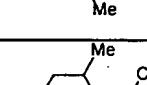
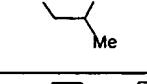
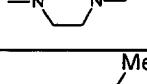


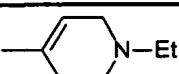
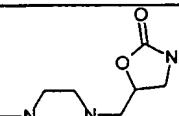
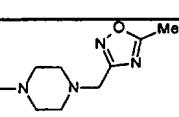
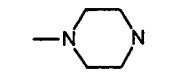
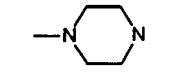
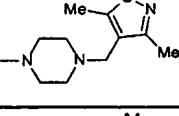
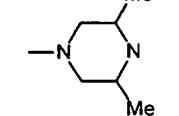
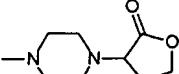
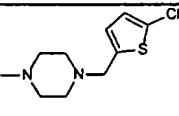
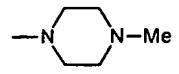
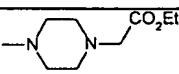
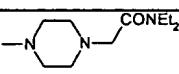
The benzimidazoles of Table 1 were all prepared according to the above scheme as exemplified for compound 1a, below.

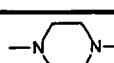
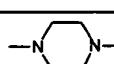
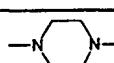
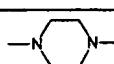
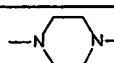
### 20 Table 1



Comp. No.	R <sub>1</sub>	R <sub>2</sub>	Mp (°C)	Yield (%)	Starting material	Salt
1a	MeO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		171-173	48	2a	HCl
1b	MeO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		161-163	64	2b	HCl
1c	MeO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		132-134	78	2c	HCl
1d	MeO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		105-110	43	2d	-
1e	MeO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		136-137	29	2e	male- ate
1f	MeO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		157-164	53	2f	HCl
1g	MeO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		123-125	27 <sup>a</sup>	2g	HCl
1h	MeO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		139-140	62	2h	HCl
1i	MeO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		218-224	100	2i	HCl
1j	MeO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		155-159	69	2j	HCl
1k	Et		157-159	70	2k	HCl
1l	Me		241-244	42	2l	HCl
1m	Me		210-220	2	2m	HCl
1n	MeS(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		71-75	42	2n	-
1o	MeS(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		121-122	69	2o	-
1p	Me <sub>2</sub> N(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		47 (de- comp.)	30	2p	-
1q	MeO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		155-159	69	2q	HCl

Comp. No.	R <sub>1</sub>	R <sub>2</sub>	Mp (°C)	Yield (%)	Starting material	Salt
1r	MeO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		172-177	75	2r	HCl
1s	Me		160-162	53	2s	-
1t	MeO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		91-93	71	2t	-
1u	Me		153-163	70	2u	HCl
1v	MeO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		139-141	45	2v	HCl
1w	MeO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		196-198	73	2w	HCl
1x	MeO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		un-defined	72	2x	HCl
1y	Me		un-defined	66	2y	HCl
1z	MeO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		166-168	26	2z	HCl
1aa	MeO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		90-94	59	2aa	HCl
1bb	Me		168-181	48	2bb	HCl
1cc	HO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		182-192	34	2cc	HCl
1dd	MeO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		202-208	24	2dd	HCl

Comp. No.	R <sub>1</sub>	R <sub>2</sub>	Mp (°C)	Yield (%)	Starting material	Salt
1ee	MeO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		179-180	69	2ee	HCl
1ff	MeO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		oil	54	2ff	HCl
1gg	MeO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		oil	100	2gg	-
1hh	Me		179-202	81	2hh	2HCl
1ii	MeO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		191-205	74	2ii	2HCl
1jj	MeO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		219-223	50	2jj	HCl
1kk	MeO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		215-231	92	2kk	HCl
1ll	MeO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		225-254	60	2ll	HCl
1mm	MeO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		185-186	62	2mm	HCl
1nn	HO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		128-139	17	2nn	HCl
1oo	HO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		150-155	44	2oo	HCl
1pp	HO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		103-125	45	2pp	HCl
1qq	MeO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		202-204	100	2qq	HCl

Comp. No.	R <sub>1</sub>	R <sub>2</sub>	Mp (°C)	Yield (%)	Starting material	Salt
1rr	MeO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		161-164	72	2rr	HCl
1ss	MeO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		211-212	58	2ss	HCl
1tt	HO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		268-270	79	2tt	HCl
1uu	HO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		149-154	64	2uu	HCl
1vv	HO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		un-defined	50	2vv	HCl

<sup>a</sup>the total yield from three steps.

2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-(ethoxy-carbonyl)-1-piperazinylmethyl)-phenyl)-

5 **benzimidazole-5-carboxylate (1a)**: A mixture of **2a** (0.57 g; 1.25 mmol), triethylorthoformate (0.42 ml; 2.5 mmol) and a catalytic amount of p-toluenesulfonic acid in tetrahydrofuran (10 ml) was heated to reflux for 30 min. The cooled mixture was diluted with ethyl acetate and washed with aqueous sodium hydroxide (1 M). The organic phase was dried over magnesium sulphate and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column-chromatography on silica gel using ethyl acetate as the eluent. The product was precipitated as the hydrochloride by addition of ethereal hydrogen chloride to the eluate. Yield: 0.4 g (64%). Mp. 171-173°C.

The following compound were prepared in analogy with Compound **1a**:

2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-(ethoxy-carbonyl-methyl)-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-

15 **benzimidazole-5-carboxylate (1b)** from **2b**. A mixture of ethyl acetate and acetone (4:1 v/v) was used as the eluent. Mp. 161-163°C.

2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-methoxycarbonyl-1-imidazolyl)-phenyl)-

benzimidazole-5-carboxylate (1c) from **2c**. Mp. 132-134°C.

2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-carboxymethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-

20 **benzimidazole-5-carboxylate (1d)** from **2d**. Mp. 105-110°C. A mixture of acetonitrile, acetic acid and water (8:1:1 v/v/v) was used as the eluent for the column chromatographic purification. No hydrogen chloride was added.

2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-methyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-

carboxylate (1e) from **2e**. Mp. 136-137°C isolated as the maleate. A mixture of ethyl

25 acetate and acetone (4:1 v/v) was used as the eluent.

2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-acetyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate (1f) from **2f**. Mp. 157-164°C. A mixture of ethyl acetate and acetone (4:1 v/v) was used as the eluent.

2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(1-methyl-4-piperidyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate (1g) from **2g**. Mp. 123-125°C. A mixture of ethyl acetate and acetone (4:1 v/v) was used as the eluent.

2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(1-acetyl-4-piperidyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate (1h) from **2h**. Mp. 139-140°C. Acetone was used as the eluent for the column-chromatographic purification.

10 2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-t-butoxycarbonylmethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate (1i) from **2i**. Mp. 218-224°C.

2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-i-propoxycarbonylmethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate (1j) from **2j**. Mp. 155-159°C.

15 ((N,N-Diethylcarbamoyl)-methyl 2-(3-[3-(5-ethoxycarbonyl-1-benzimidazolyl)-phenyl]-4,5-dihydroxyisoxazol-5-yl)-acetate (1k) from **2k**. Mp. 157-159°C.

Methyl 1-(3-(1-imidazolylmethyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate (1l) from **2l**. Mp. 241-244°C. A mixture of dichloromethane and methanol (9:1 v/v) was used as the eluent.

20 2-[4-(3-(5-Methoxycarbonylbenzimidazol-1-yl)-phenyl)-1-piperazinyl]-acetic acid (1m) from **2m**. Mp. 210-220°C. The product was chromatographed twice using a mixture of acetonitrile, water and acetic acid (8:1:1 v/v/v) as the eluent.

2-(Methylthio)-ethyl 1-(3-(1-imidazolylmethyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate (1n) from **2n**. Mp. 71-75°C. A mixture of dichloromethane, methanol and aqueous ammonia (90:10:1 v/v/v) was used as the eluent. Isolated as the free base.

25 2-(Methylthio)-ethyl 1-(3-(4-methyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate (1o) from **2o**. Mp. 121-122°C.

2-(N,N-dimethylamino)-ethyl 1-(3-(1-carboxymethyl-4-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate (1p) from **2p**. Mp. 47°C (with decomposition). A mixture of acetonitrile, acetic acid, pyridine and water (7:1:1:1 v/v/v/v) was used as the eluent.

30 2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(1-isopropoxycarbonylmethyl-4-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate (1q) from **2q**. Mp. 155-159°C.

2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-benzyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate (1r) from **2r**. Mp. 172-177°C.

35 Methyl 1-(3-(4-cyanomethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate (1s) from **2s**. Mp. 160-162°C. The product was isolated as the free base.

2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-cyanomethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate (1t) from **2t**. Mp. 91-93°C. The product was isolated as the free base.

Methyl 1-(3-(4-benzyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate (1u) from **2u**. Mp. 153-163°C.

2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-benzyloxyethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate (1v) from **2v**. Mp. 139-141°C.

5 2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-(1-methyl-5-tetrazolyl)methyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate (1w) from **2w**. Mp. 196-198°C.

2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-ethyl-1-homopiperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate (1x) from **2x**. Mp. undefined. A mixture of dichloromethane and methanol (9:1 v/v) was used as the eluent.

10 2-Methyl 1-(3-(4-ethyl-1-homopiperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate (1y) from **2y**. Mp. undefined. A mixture of dichloromethane and methanol (9:1 v/v) was used as the eluent.

2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-ethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate (1z) from **2z**. Mp. 166-168°C.

15 2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-ethoxycarbonylmethyl-3,5-dimethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate (1aa) from **2aa**. Mp. 90-94°C.

2-Methyl 1-(3-(4-ethoxycarbonylmethyl-3,5-dimethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate (1bb) from **2bb**. Mp. 168-181°C.

20 2-Hydroxyethyl 1-(3-(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate (1cc) from **2cc**. Mp. 182-192°C. A mixture of ethyl acetate and methanol (1:1 v/v) was used as the eluent.

25 2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-ethyl-3,5-dimethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate (1dd) from **2dd**. Mp. 202-208°C. A mixture of ethyl acetate and methanol (1:1 v/v) was used as the eluent.

2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(1-ethyl-1,2,5,6-tetrahydropyridin-4-yl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate (1ee) from **2ee**. Mp. 179-180°C.

2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-(2-oxazolidinone-5-yl)methyl)-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate (1ff) from **2ff**. Isolated as an oil.

2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-(5-methyloxadiazol-3-yl)methyl)-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate (1gg) from **2gg**. Isolated as an oil.

30 Methyl 1-(3-(1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate (1hh) from **2hh**. Mp. 179-202°C. The Boc-group was removed subsequently to the ring closure by treatment with trifluoroacetic acid in dichloromethane.

2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate (1ii) from **2ii**. Mp. 191-205°C. The Boc-group was removed subsequently to the ring closure by treatment with trifluoroacetic acid in dichloromethane.

2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-(3,5-dimethylisoxazol-4-yl)methyl)-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate (1jj) was prepared from **1ii** by alkylation with 4-chloromethyl-3,5-dimethylisoxazol. Mp. 219-223°C.

2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(3,5-dimethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate (1kk) from **2kk**. Mp. 215-231°C. The Boc-group was removed subsequently to the ring closure by treatment with trifluoroacetic acid in dichloromethane.

5 2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-(2-oxo-tetrahydrofuran-3-yl)-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate (1ll) from **2ll**. Mp. 225-254°C.

2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-(2-chloro-5-thienyl)methyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate (1mm) was prepared from **1ii** by alkylation with 2-chloromethyl-5-chlorothiophene. Mp. 185-186°C.

10 2-Hydroxyethyl 1-(3-(4-methyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate (1nn) from **2nn**. Mp. A mixture of ethyl acetate and methanol (1:1v/v) was used as the eluent.

15 2-Hydroxyethyl 1-(3-(4-methoxycarbonylmethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate (1oo) from **2oo**. Mp. A mixture of ethyl acetate and methanol (9:1v/v) was used as the eluent.

2-Hydroxyethyl 1-(3-(4-ethoxycarbonylmethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate (1pp) from **2pp**. Mp. A mixture of ethyl acetate and methanol (9:1v/v) was used as the eluent.

20 2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-diethylcarbamoylmethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate (1qq) from **2qq**. Mp. 202-204°C. A mixture of ethyl acetate and methanol (9:1v/v) was used as the eluent.

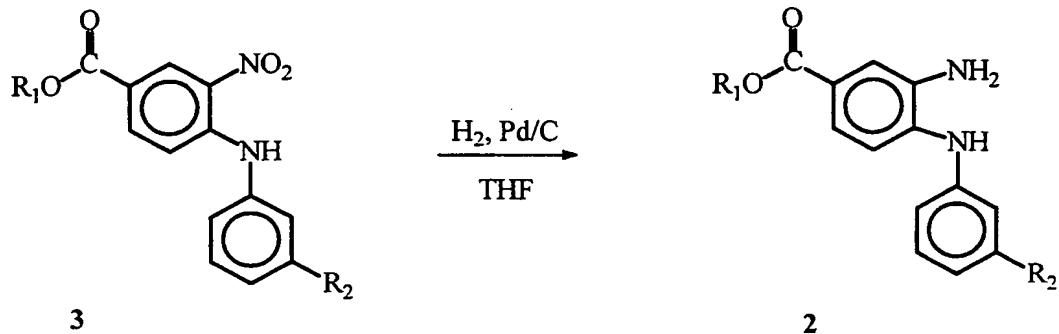
2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-methoxycarbonylmethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate (1rr) from **2rr**. Mp. 161-164°C. A mixture of ethyl acetate and methanol (9:1v/v) was used as the eluent.

25 2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-carbamoylmethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate (1ss) from **2ss**. Mp. 211-212°C. A mixture of ethyl acetate and methanol (9:1v/v) was used as the eluent.

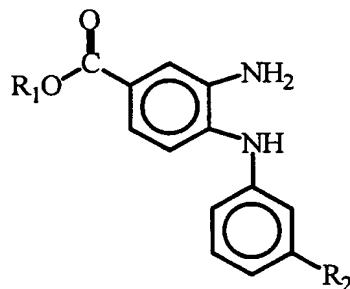
30 2-Hydroxyethyl 1-(3-(4-carbamoylmethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate (1tt) from **2tt**. Mp. 268-270°C. A mixture of ethyl acetate and methanol (9:1v/v) was used as the eluent.

2-Hydroxyethyl 1-(3-(4-diethylcarbamoylmethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate (1uu) from **2uu**. Mp. 149-154°C. A mixture of ethyl acetate and methanol (9:1v/v) was used as the eluent.

35 2-Hydroxyethyl 1-(3-(4-carboxymethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate (1vv) from **2vv**. DMF was used as the solvent and a mixture of acetonitrile, water and acetic acid (8:1:1 v/v/v) was used as the eluent.

**Example 2**

The diamines of Table 2 were all prepared quantitatively by hydrogenation of the corresponding nitroanilines (3), according to the above scheme as exemplified 5 for 2a below.

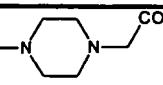
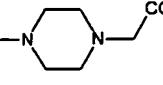
**Table 2**

Compound No.	R <sub>1</sub>	R <sub>2</sub>	Starting material
2a	MeO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		3a
2b	MeO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		3b
2c	MeO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		3c
2e	MeO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		3e
2f	MeO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		3f

Compound No.	R <sub>1</sub>	R <sub>2</sub>	Starting material
2g	MeO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		3g
2h	MeO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		3h
2i	MeO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		3i
2j	MeO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		3j
2k	Et		3k
2l	Me		3l
2n	MeS(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		3n
2o	MeS(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		3o
2r	MeO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		3r
2s	Me		3s
2t	MeO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		3t
2u	Me		3u
2v	MeO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		3v
2w	MeO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		3w

Compound No.	R <sub>1</sub>	R <sub>2</sub>	Starting material
2x	MeO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		3x
2y	Me		3y
2z	MeO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		3z
2aa	MeO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		3aa
2bb	Me		3bb
2cc	HO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		3cc
2dd	MeO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		3dd
2ee	MeO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		3ee
2ff	MeO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		3ff
2gg	MeO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		3gg

Compound No.	R <sub>1</sub>	R <sub>2</sub>	Starting material
2hh	Me		3hh
2ii	MeO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		3ii
2jj	MeO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		3jj
2kk	MeO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		3kk
2ll	MeO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		3ll
2mm	MeO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		3mm
2nn	HO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		3nn
2oo	HO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		3oo
2pp	HO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		3pp
2qq	MeO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		3qq
2rr	MeO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		3rr
2ss	MeO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		3ss
2tt	HO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		3tt

Compound No.	R <sub>1</sub>	R <sub>2</sub>	Starting material
2uu	HO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		3uu
2vv	HO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		3vv

2-Methoxyethyl 3-amino-4-(3-((1-ethoxycarbonyl-4-piperazinyl)-methyl)-phenylamino)-benzoate (2a). 3a (0.75 g; 1.54 mmol) was suspended in tetrahydrofuran. Palladium catalyst (50 mg, 5% on activated carbon) was added and the mixture was hydrogenated at ambient pressure until the hydrogen uptake had ceased. The mixture was filtered through celite and the filtrate was evaporated to dryness to leave 2a, quantitatively.

The following compound were prepared in analogy with Compound 2a:

10 2-Methoxyethyl 3-amino-4-(3-(1-(ethoxy-carbonyl-methyl)-4-piperazinylmethyl)-phenylamino)-benzoate (2b) from 3b.

2-Methoxyethyl 3-amino-4-(3-(4-methoxycarbonyl-1-imidazolyl)-phenylamino)-benzoate (2c) from 3c.

15 2-Methoxyethyl 3-amino-4-(3-(1-methyl-4-piperazinyl)-phenylamino)-benzoate (2e) from 3e.

2-Methoxyethyl 3-amino-4-(3-(1-acetyl-4-piperazinyl)-phenylamino)-benzoate (2f) from 3f.

20 2-Methoxyethyl 3-amino-4-(3-(1-methyl-4-piperidyl)-phenylamino)-benzoate (2g) from 3g.

2-Methoxyethyl 3-amino-4-(3-(1-acetyl-4-piperidyl)-phenylamino)-benzoate (2h) from 3h.

25 2-Methoxyethyl 3-amino-4-(3-(1-i-butoxycarbonylmethyl-4-piperazinyl)-phenylamino)-benzoate (2i) from 3i.

2-Methoxyethyl 3-amino-4-(3-(1-i-propoxycarbonylmethyl-4-piperazinyl)-phenylamino)-benzoate (2j) from 3j.

30 (N,N-Diethylcarbamoyl)-methyl 2-[3-(3-((2-amino-4-ethoxycarbonylphenyl)-amino)-phenyl)-4,5-dihydroisoxazol-5-yl]-acetate (2k) from 3k.

Methyl 3-amino-4-(3-((1-imidazolyl)-methyl)-phenylamino)-benzoate (2l) from 3l.

2-(Methylthio)-ethyl 3-amino-4-(3-(1-imidazolylmethyl)-phenylamino)-benzoate (2n) from 3n using raney nickel as the catalyst.

2-(Methylthio)-ethyl 3-amino-4-(3-(4-methyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenylamino)-benzoate (2o) from 3o.

2-Methoxyethyl 3-amino-4-(3-(1-benzyl-4-piperazinyl)-phenylamino)-benzoate (2r) from 3r. PtO<sub>2</sub> was used as the catalyst.

5 Methyl 3-amino-4-(3-(1-cyanomethyl-4-piperazinyl)-phenylamino)-benzoate (2s) from 3s.

2-Methoxyethyl 3-amino-4-(3-(1-cyanomethyl-4-piperazinyl)-phenylamino)-benzoate (2t) from 3t. PtO<sub>2</sub> was used as the catalyst.

10 Methyl 3-amino-4-(3-(1-benzyl-4-piperazinyl)-phenylamino)-benzoate (2u) from 3u. PtO<sub>2</sub> was used as the catalyst.

2-Methoxyethyl 3-amino-4-(3-(1-(2-benzyloxyethyl)-4-piperazinyl)-phenylamino)-benzoate (2v) from 3v. PtO<sub>2</sub> was used as the catalyst.

15 2-Methoxyethyl 3-amino-4-(3-(1-((1-methyl-5-tetrazolyl)-methyl)-4-piperazinyl)-phenylamino)-benzoate (2w) from 3w. PtO<sub>2</sub> was used as the catalyst.

15 2-Methoxyethyl 3-amino-4-(3-(1-ethyl-4-homopiperazinyl)-phenylamino)-benzoate (2x) from 3x.

Methyl 3-amino-4-(3-(1-ethyl-4-homopiperazinyl)-phenylamino)-benzoate (2y) from 3y.

20 2-Methoxyethyl 3-amino-4-(3-(1-ethyl-4-piperazinyl)-phenylamino)-benzoate (2z) from 3z.

2-Methoxyethyl 3-amino-4-(3-((1-ethoxy-carbonyl-methyl)-2,6-dimethyl)-4-piperazinylmethyl)-phenylamino)-benzoate (2aa) from 3aa.

Methyl 3-amino-4-(3-((1-ethoxy-carbonyl-methyl)-2,6-dimethyl)-4-piperazinylmethyl)-phenylamino)-benzoate (2bb) from 3bb.

25 2-Hydroxyethyl 3-amino-4-(3-(1-(2-hydroxyethyl)-4-piperazinyl)-phenylamino)-benzoate (2cc) from 3cc.

2-Methoxyethyl 3-amino-4-(3-((1-ethyl-2,6-dimethyl)-4-piperazinylmethyl)-phenylamino)-benzoate (2dd) from 3dd.

30 2-Methoxyethyl 3-amino-4-(3-(1-(2-oxazolinon-5-yl)methyl-4-piperazinyl)-phenylamino)-benzoate (2ff) from 3ff.

2-Methoxyethyl 3-amino-4-(3-(1-(5-methyloxadiazol-3-yl)methyl-4-piperazinyl)-phenylamino)-benzoate (2gg) from 3gg. PtO<sub>2</sub> was used as the catalyst.

Methyl 3-amino-4-(3-(1-boc-4-piperazinyl)-phenylamino)-benzoate (2hh) from 3hh.

35 2-Methoxyethyl 3-amino-4-(3-(1-boc-4-piperazinyl)-phenylamino)-benzoate (2ii) from 3ii.

2-Methoxyethyl 3-amino-4-(3-(1-boc-2,6-dimethyl-4-piperazinyl)-phenylamino)-benzoate (2kk) from 3kk.

2-Methoxyethyl 3-amino-4-(3-(1-(2-oxotetrahydrofuran-3-yl)-4-piperazinyl)-phenylamino)-benzoate (2II) from 3II.

2-Hydroxyethyl 3-amino-4-(3-(4-methyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenylamino)-benzoate (2nn) from 3nn.

5 2-Hydroxyethyl 3-amino-4-(3-(4-methoxycarbonylmethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenylamino)-benzoate (2oo) from 3oo.

2-Hydroxyethyl 3-amino-4-(3-(4-ethoxycarbonylmethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenylamino)-benzoate (2pp) from 3pp.

10 2-Methoxyethyl 3-amino-4-(3-(4-(N,N-diethyl-carbamoyl)methyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenylamino)-benzoate (2qq) from 3qq.

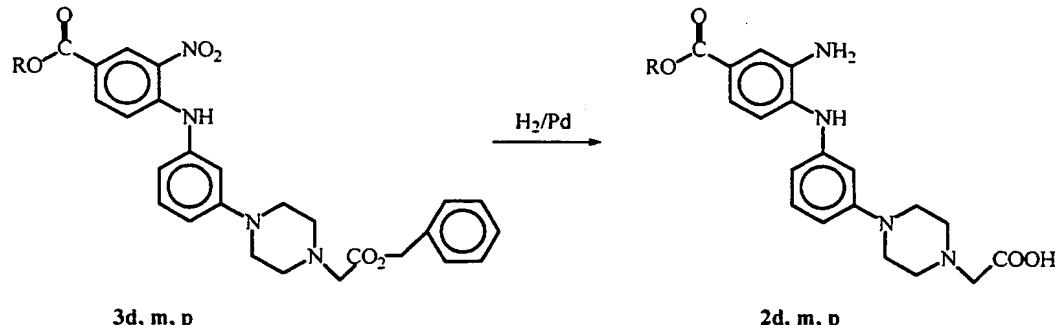
2-Methoxyethyl 3-amino-4-(3-(4-methoxycarbonylmethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenylamino)-benzoate (2rr) from 3rr.

2-Methoxyethyl 3-amino-4-(3-(4-carbamoylmethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenylamino)-benzoate (2ss) from 3ss.

15 2-Hydroxyethyl 3-amino-4-(3-(4-carbamoylmethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenylamino)-benzoate (2tt) from 3tt.

2-Hydroxyethyl 3-amino-4-(3-(4-(N,N-diethyl-carbamoyl)-methyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenylamino)-benzoate (2uu) from 3uu.

20 **Example 2a.**



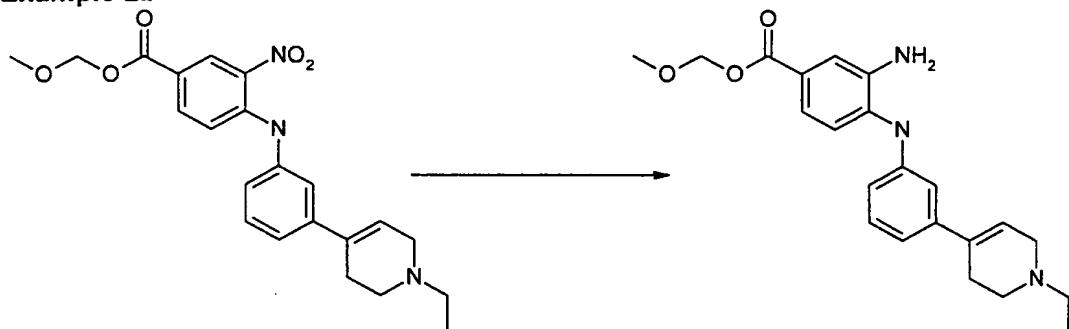
2-Methoxyethyl 3-amino-4-(3-(1-carboxymethyl-4-piperazinyl)-phenylamino)-benzoate (2d). To a solution of 2-methoxyethyl 3-nitro-4-(3-(4-(benzyloxy-carbonyl-methyl)-1-piperazinyl)-phenylamino)-benzoate (3d) (3.5 g; 6.4 mmol) in a mixture of tetrahydrofuran (50 ml) and DMF (5 ml) was added palladium catalyst (0.9 g, 5% Pd on activated carbon) and ammonium formate (0.8 g; 12.6 mmol) and the mixture was heated to reflux for 2 hours. The cooled mixture was filtered through celite and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure to leave 2d, quantitatively.

Methyl 3-amino-4-(3-(1-carboxymethyl-4-piperazinyl)-phenylamino)-benzoate (2m) from 3m.

2-(Dimethylamino)-ethyl 3-amino-4-(3-(1-carboxymethyl-4-piperazinyl)-phenylamino)-benzoate (2p) from 3p.

5 2-Hydroxyethyl 3-amino-4-(3-(1-carboxymethyl-4-piperazinyl)-phenylamino)-benzoate (2vv) from 3vv.

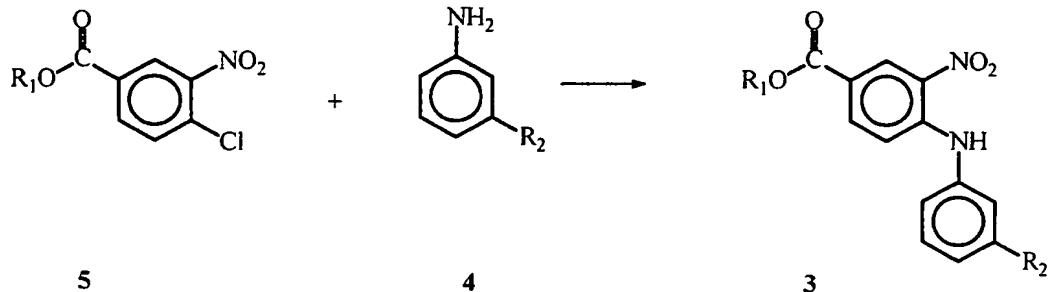
**Example 2b**



10

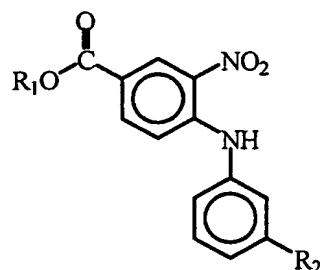
2-Methoxyethyl 3-amino-4-(3-(1-ethyl-1,2,5,6-tetrahydropyridin-4-yl)-phenylamino)-benzoate (2ee) from 3ee. A mixture of 3ee (0.97 g; 1.9 mmol), sodium sulphide nonahydrate (1.37 g; 5.71 mmol) and ammonium chloride (0.3 g; 5.61 mmol) in a mixture of THF (5 ml) and 2-methoxyethanol (5 ml) was heated to 80°C for two hours. The cooled mixture was poured into ice-water and extracted with ethyl acetate. The extract was dried over magnesium sulphate, filtered and evaporated to dryness. The residue was purified on a silica gel column using a mixture of ethyl acetate and methanol (9:1 v/v) as the eluent. Yield: 0.21 g.

20 **Example 3**



The nitroanilines of Table 3 were prepared by reaction of 4-chloro-3-nitrobenzoates 5 with substituted anilines (4), according to the above scheme as exemplified for compound 3a below.

Table 3



Comp. No.	R <sub>1</sub>	R <sub>2</sub>	Starting materials	Yield (%)
3a	MeO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		4a, 5a	43
3b	MeO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		4b, 5a	67
3c	MeO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		4c, 5a	37
3d	MeO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		4d, 5a	52
3e	MeO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		4e, 5a	81
3f	MeO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		4f, 5a	58
3g	MeO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		4g, 5a	-
3h	MeO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		4h, 5a	74
3i	MeO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		4i, 5a	45
3j	MeO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		4j, 5a	57
3k	Et		4k, 5b	63
3l	Me		4l, 5c	32

Comp. No.	R <sub>1</sub>	R <sub>2</sub>	Starting materials	Yield (%)
3m	Me		4d, 5c	88
3n	MeS(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		4l, 5d	16
3o	MeS(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		4e, 5d	78
3p	Me <sub>2</sub> N(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		4d, 5e	63
3p	Me <sub>2</sub> N(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		4d, 5e	63
3r	MeO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		4s, 5a	65
3s	Me		4t, 5c	53
3t	MeO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		4t, 5a	74
3u	Me		4s, 5c	65
3w	MeO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		4u, 5a	37
3x	MeO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		4v, 5a	100
3y	Me		4v, 5c	100
3z	MeO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		4x, 5a	100
3aa	MeO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		4y, 5a	61

Comp. No.	R <sub>1</sub>	R <sub>2</sub>	Starting materials	Yield (%)
3bb	Me		4y, 5c	33
3cc	HO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		4z, 5f	90
3dd	MeO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		4aa, 5a	100
3ee	MeO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		4bb, 5a	70
3ff	MeO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		4cc, 5a	50
3gg	MeO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		4dd, 5a	71
3hh	Me		4ee, 5c	38
3ii	MeO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		4ee, 5a	69
3kk	MeO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		4ff, 5a	89
3ll	MeO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		4gg, 5a	75
3nn	HO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		4e, 5f	59

Comp. No.	R <sub>1</sub>	R <sub>2</sub>	Starting materials	Yield (%)
3oo	HO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	—N—Cyclohexyl—CH <sub>2</sub> —CO <sub>2</sub> Me	5f	56
3pp	HO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	—N—Cyclohexyl—CH <sub>2</sub> —CO <sub>2</sub> Et	4b, 5f	27
3qq	MeO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	—N—Cyclohexyl—CH <sub>2</sub> —CONEt <sub>2</sub>	4ii, 5a	24
3rr	MeO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	—N—Cyclohexyl—CH <sub>2</sub> —CO <sub>2</sub> Me	5a	53
3ss	MeO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	—N—Cyclohexyl—CH <sub>2</sub> —CONH <sub>2</sub>	4jj, 5a	21
3uu	HO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	—N—Cyclohexyl—CH <sub>2</sub> —CONH <sub>2</sub>	4jj, 5f	82
3vv	HO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	—N—Cyclohexyl—CH <sub>2</sub> —CONEt <sub>2</sub>	4ii, 5f	41

2-Methoxyethyl 3-nitro-4-(3-(1-ethoxycarbonyl-4-piperazinylmethyl)-phenylamino)-benzoate (3a). A mixture of 5a (0.94 g; 3.62 mmol), 4a (1.0 g; 3.83 mmol) and triethylamine (0.53 ml; 3.80 mmol) in NMP (10 ml) was heated to 110°C overnight. The cooled mixture was partitioned between water and ethyl acetate. The phases were separated and the aqueous phase was extracted with ethyl acetate. The combined organic phases were washed with brine, dried over magnesium sulphate and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column-chromatography on silica gel using a mixture of ethyl acetate and petroleum ether (1:1 v/v) as the eluent. Yield: 0.75 g (43%).

The following compound were prepared in analogy with Compound 3a:

2-Methoxyethyl 3-nitro-4-(3-(1-(ethoxy-carbonyl-methyl)-4-piperazinylmethyl)-phenylamino)-benzoate (3b) from 4b and 5a.

2-Methoxyethyl 3-nitro-4-(3-(4-methoxycarbonyl-1-imidazolyl)-phenylamino)-benzoate (3c) from 4c and 5a.

2-Methoxyethyl 3-nitro-4-(3-(1-(benzyloxy-carbonyl-methyl)-4-piperazinyl)-phenylamino)-benzoate (3d) from 4d and 5a.

2-Methoxyethyl 3-nitro-4-(3-(1-methyl-4-piperazinyl)-phenylamino)-benzoate (3e) from 4e and 5a.

2-Methoxyethyl 3-nitro-4-(3-(1-acetyl-4-piperazinyl)-phenylamino)-benzoate  
(3f) from 4f and 5a.

2-Methoxyethyl 3-nitro-4-(3-(1-methyl-4-piperidyl)-phenylamino)-benzoate  
(3g) from 4g and 5a.

5 2-Methoxyethyl 3-nitro-4-(3-(1-acetyl-4-piperidyl)-phenylamino)-benzoate  
(3h) from 4h and 5a.

2-Methoxyethyl 3-nitro-4-(3-(1-(*t*-butoxy-carbonyl-methyl)-4-piperazinyl)-phenylamino)-benzoate (3i) from 4i and 5a.

10 2-Methoxyethyl 3-nitro-4-(3-(1-(*i*-propoxy-carbonyl-methyl)-4-piperazinyl)-phenylamino)-benzoate (3j) from 4j and 5a.  
(N,N-Diethylcarbamoyl)methyl 2-(3-(3-[N-(4-ethoxycarbonyl-3-nitrophenyl)-amino]-phenyl)-4,5-dihydroisoxazol-5-yl)-acetate (3k) from 4k and 5b.  
Methyl 3-nitro-4-(3-(1-imidazolylmethyl)-phenylamino)-benzoate (3l) from 4l and 5c.

15 2-(Methylthio)-ethyl 3-nitro-4-(3-(1-imidazolylmethyl)-phenylamino)-benzoate (3n) from 4l and 5d.  
2-(Methylthio)-ethyl 3-nitro-4-(3-(4-methyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenylamino)-benzoate (3o) from 4l and 5d.

20 2-Methoxyethyl 3-nitro-4-(3-(4-benzyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenylamino)-benzoate (3r) from 4s and 5a.  
Methyl 3-nitro-4-(3-(4-(cyanomethyl)-1-piperazinyl)-phenylamino)-benzoate  
(3s) from 4t and 5c.

2-Methoxyethyl 3-nitro-4-(3-(4-(cyanomethyl)-1-piperazinyl)-phenylamino)-benzoate (3t) from 4t and 5a.

25 Methyl 3-nitro-4-(3-(4-benzyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenylamino)-benzoate (3u) from 4s and 5c.  
2-Methoxyethyl 3-nitro-4-(3-(4-((1-methyl-5-tetrazolyl)methyl)-1-piperazinyl)-phenylamino)-benzoate (3w) from 4u and 5a.

30 2-Methoxyethyl 3-nitro-4-(3-(4-ethyl-1-homopiparazinyl)-phenylamino)-benzoate (3x) from 4v and 5a.  
Methyl 3-nitro-4-(3-(4-ethyl-1-homopiparazinyl)-phenylamino)-benzoate (3y) from 4v and 5c.

2-Methoxyethyl 3-nitro-4-(3-(4-ethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenylamino)-benzoate  
(3z) from 4v and 5a.

35 2-Methoxyethyl 3-nitro-4-(3-(4-ethoxycarbonylmethyl-3,5-dimethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenylamino)-benzoate (3aa) from 4y and 5a.  
Methyl 3-nitro-4-(3-(4-ethoxycarbonylmethyl-3,5-dimethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenylamino)-benzoate (3bb) from 4y and 5c.

2-Hydroxyethyl 3-nitro-4-(3-(4-ethyl-3,5-dimethyl-1-piparazinyl)-phenylamino)-benzoate (**3dd**) from **4aa** and **5a**.

2-Methoxyethyl 3-nitro-4-(3-(1-ethyl-1,2,5,6-tetrahydropyridin-4-yl)-phenylamino)-benzoate (**3ee**) from **4bb** and **5a**.

5 2-Methoxyethyl 3-nitro-4-(3-(2-oxo-oxazolidin-5-yl)methyl)-phenylamino)-benzoate (**3ff**) from **4cc** and **5a**.

2-Methoxyethyl 3-nitro-4-(3-(4-((5-methyl-3-oxadiazolyl)methyl)-1-piparazinyl)-phenylamino)-benzoate (**3gg**) from **4dd** and **5a**.

Methyl 3-nitro-4-(3-(4-boc-piperazin-1-yl)-phenylamino)-benzoate (**3hh**)

10 from **4ee** and **5c**.

2-Methoxyethyl 3-nitro-4-(3-(4-boc-piperazin-1-yl)-phenylamino)-benzoate (**3ii**) from **4ee** and **5a**.

2-Methoxyethyl 3-nitro-4-(3-(4-boc-3,5-dimethylpiperazin-1-yl)-phenylamino)-benzoate (**3kk**) from **4ff** and **5a**.

15 2-Methoxyethyl 3-nitro-4-(3-(4-(2-oxotetrahydrofuran-3-yl)-1-piperazinyl)-phenylamino)-benzoate (**3ll**) from **4gg** and **5a**.

2-Hydroxyethyl 3-nitro-4-(3-(4-methyl-1-piparazinyl)-phenylamino)-benzoate (**3nn**) from **4e** and **5f**.

2-Hydroxyethyl 3-nitro-4-(3-(4-methoxycarbonylmethyl-1-piparazinyl)-phenylamino)-benzoate (**3oo**) from methyl 3-nitro-4-chlorobenzoate and **5f**.

20 2-Hydroxyethyl 3-nitro-4-(3-(4-ethoxycarbonylmethyl-1-piparazinyl)-phenylamino)-benzoate (**3pp**) from **4b** and **5f**.

2-Methoxyethyl 3-nitro-4-(3-(4-(N,N-diethylcarbamoylmethyl)-piperazin-1-yl)-phenylamino)-benzoate (**3qq**) from **4ii** and **5a**.

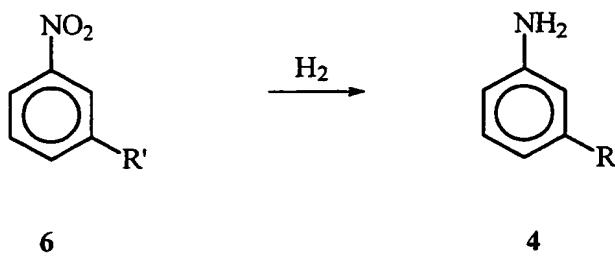
25 2-Methoxyethyl 3-nitro-4-(3-(4-methoxycarbonylmethyl-1-piparazinyl)-phenylamino)-benzoate (**3rr**) from methyl 3-nitro-4-chlorobenzoate and **5a**.

2-Methoxyethyl 3-nitro-4-(3-(4-(carbamoylmethyl)-piperazin-1-yl)-phenylamino)-benzoate (**3ss**) from **4jj** and **5a**.

30 2-Hydroxyethyl 3-nitro-4-(3-(4-(carbamoylmethyl)-piperazin-1-yl)-phenylamino)-benzoate (**3tt**) from **4jj** and **5f**.

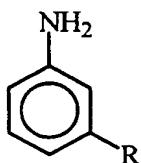
2-Hydroxyethyl 3-nitro-4-(3-(4-(N,N-diethylcarbamoylmethyl)-piperazin-1-yl)-phenylamino)-benzoate (**3uu**) from **4ii** and **5f**.

### Example 4



The substituted anilines of Table 4 were prepared by hydrogenation of the corresponding nitro compounds (**6**) as exemplified by compound **4a** below.

Table 4



Comp. No.	R	Starting material	R'	Preparation of starting material
4a		6a	R	Example 6a
4b		6b	R	Example 6b
4c		6c	R	Example 6c
4d		6d	R	Example 6d
4e		6e	R	Example 6e
4f		6f	R	Example 6f
4g		6g		Example 6g

Comp. No.	R	Starting material	R'	Preparation of starting material
4h		6h		Example 6h
4i		6i	R	Example 6b
4j		6j	R	Example 6b
4k		6k	R	Example 6k
4l		6l	R	Example 6l
4m		6m	R	Example 6m
4n		6n		Example 6n
4o		6o	R	Example 6o
4p		6p	R	Example 6p
4q		6q	R	Example 6q
4r		6r	R	Example 6r
4s		6s	R	Example 6b
4t		6t	R	Example 6b
4u		6u	R	Example 6u

Comp. No.	R	Starting material	R'	Preparation of starting material
4v		6v	R	Example 6b
4x		6x	R	Example 6b
4y		6y	R	Example 6b
4z		6z	R	Example 6b
4aa		6aa	R	Example 6b
4bb		6bb	R	Example 6g
4cc		6cc	R	Example 6b
4dd		6dd	R	Example 6b
4ee		6ee	R	Example 6b

Comp. No.	R	Starting material	R'	Preparation of starting material
4ff		6ff	R	Example 6b
4gg		6gg	R	Example 6b
4ii		6ii	R	Example 6b
4jj		6jj	R	Example 6b

1-Ethoxycarbonyl-4-(3-aminobenzyl)-piperazine 4a. To a solution of **6a** (2.2 g; 7.5 mmol) in abs. ethanol (50 ml) was added palladium catalyst (100 mg, 5% Pd on activated carbon) and the mixture was hydrogenated at ambient pressure until the hydrogen uptake had ceased. Filtration through celite and evaporation of solvent left **4a**, quantitatively.

The following compound were prepared in analogy with Compound **4a**:

Ethyl 2-(4-(3-aminophenyl)-1-piperazinyl)-acetate (4b) from **6b**.

Methyl 1-(3-aminophenyl)-4-imidazolecarboxylate (4c) from **6c**.

**10** Benzyl 2-(4-(3-aminophenyl)-1-piperazinyl)-acetate (4d) from **6d**. PtO<sub>2</sub> was used as the catalyst.

3-(4-Methyl-1-piperazinyl)-aniline (4e) from **6e**.

3-(4-Acetyl-1-piperazinyl)-aniline (4f) from **6f**.

3-(1-Methyl-4-piperidyl)-aniline (4g) from **6g**.

**15** 3-(1-Acetyl-4-piperidyl)-aniline (4h) from **6h**.

t-Butyl 2-(4-(3-aminophenyl)-1-piperazinyl)-acetate (4i) from **6i**.

i-Propyl 2-(4-(3-aminophenyl)-1-piperazinyl)-acetate (4j) from **6j**.

(N,N-Diethylcarbamoyl)-methyl 2-(3-(3-aminophenyl)-4,5-dihydroisoxazol-5-yl)-acetate (4k) from **6k**.

**20** 1-[3-aminophenyl]-methyl-1-imidazole (4l) from **6l**.

Ethyl 2-(4-[3-aminophenyl]-methyl-1-piperazinyl)-acetate (4m) from **6m**.

Ethyl 2-(4-(3-aminophenyl)-1-piperidyl)-acetate (4n) from **6n**.

Ethyl 2-(4-(3-aminophenyl)-methyl)-1-piperidyl)-acetate (4o) from **6o**.

Ethyl 2-(4-(3-aminophenyl)-1-piperazinyl)-acetate (4p) from **6p**.

2-(4-Acetyl-1-piperazinyl)-ethyl 3-aminobenzoate (**4q**) from **6q**. THF was  
5 used as solvent.

1-Methyl-2-pyrrolidylmethyl 3-aminobenzoate (**4r**) from **6r**. THF was used  
as solvent.

3-(4-benzyl-1-piperazinyl)-aniline (**4s**) from **6s**. PtO<sub>2</sub> was used as the  
catalyst.

10 2-(4-(3-aminophenyl)-1-piperazinyl)-acetonitril (4t) from **6t**.

3-(4-((1-methyltetrazol-5-yl)methyl)-1-piperazinyl)-aniline (4u) from **6u**. PtO<sub>2</sub>  
was used as the catalyst.

3-(4-ethyl-1-homopiperazinyl)-aniline (4v) from **6v**.

3-(4-ethyl-1-piperazinyl)-aniline (4x) from **6x**.

15 3-(4-ethoxycarbonylmethyl-3,5-dimethyl-1-piperazinyl)-aniline (4y) from **6y**.

3-(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazinyl)-aniline (4z) from **6z**.

3-(4-ethyl-3,5-dimethyl-1-piperazinyl)-aniline (4aa) from **6aa**.

3-(4-(2-oxo-oxazolidin-5-yl)methyl)-1-piperazinyl)-aniline (4cc) from **6cc**.

3-(4-(5-methyloxadiazol-3-yl)methyl)-1-piperazinyl)-aniline (4dd) from **6dd**.

20 3-(4-boc-1-piperazinyl)-aniline (4ee) from **6ee**.

3-(4-boc-3,5-dimethyl-1-piperazinyl)-aniline (4ff) from **6ff**.

3-(4-(2-oxotetrahydrofuran-3-yl)-1-piperazinyl)-aniline (4gg) from **6gg**.

25 3-(4-methoxycarbonylmethyl-1-piperazinyl)-aniline (4hh) as described in  
WO 98/17651.

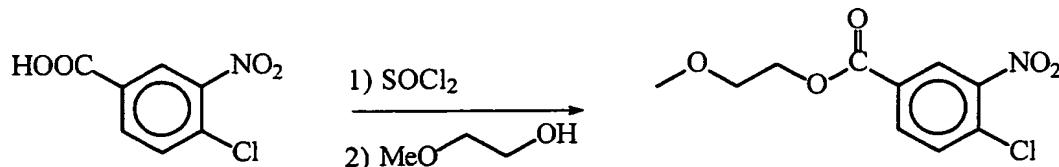
3-(4-((N,N-diethylcarbamoyl)methyl)-1-piperazinyl)-aniline (4ii) from **6ii**.

3-(4-(carbamoylmethyl)-1-piperazinyl)-aniline (4jj) from **6jj**.

#### Example 4a

30 3-(4-(1-ethyl-1,2,5,6-tetrahydropyridin-4-yl)-1-piperazinyl)-aniline (4bb). A  
mixture of **6bb** (Example 6g) (0.85 g; 3.66 mmol), sodium sulfide nonahydrate (2.64 g;  
11.0 mmol) and ammonium chloride (0.58 g; 10.8mmol) in abs. ethanol (25 ml) was  
heated to reflux for 4 hours. The cooled mixture was poured into ice-water and  
extracted with dichloromethane. The extract was dried over magnesium sulphate,  
filtered and evaporated to leave **4bb**. Yield: 0.60 g (81%).

## Example 5



2-Methoxyethyl 4-chloro-3-nitrobenzoate (5a). A mixture of 4-chloro-3-nitrobenzoic acid (10.0 g; 49.6 mmol) and thionylchloride (50 ml) was heated to reflux overnight. The excess of thionylchloride was removed by evaporation and 2-methoxyethanol (50 ml) was added. The resulting mixture was stirred at 80°C for 4 hours. The cooled solution was diluted with water (500 ml) and extracted with ethyl acetate (2 x 100 ml). The organic extract was dried over magnesium sulphate and concentrated under reduced pressure. Trituration of the residue with petroleum ether left **5a** (8.0 g; 62%) as a low melting solid (Mp. 33-35°C).

The following compound were prepared in analogy with Compound **5a**:

Ethyl 4-chloro-3-nitrobenzoate (5b);

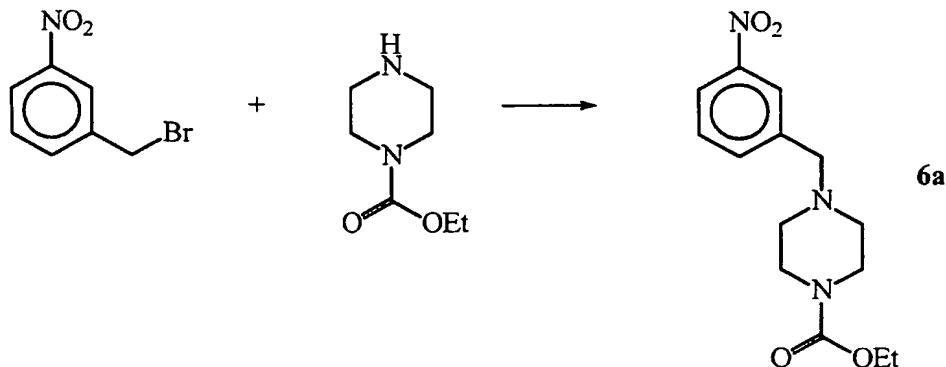
Methyl 4-chloro-3-nitrobenzoate (5c);

2-(Methylthio)ethyl 4-chloro-3-nitrobenzoate (5d);

2-(N,N-dimethylamino)ethyl 4-chloro-3-nitrobenzoate (5e); and

2-Hydroxyethyl 4-chloro-3-nitrobenzoate (5f).

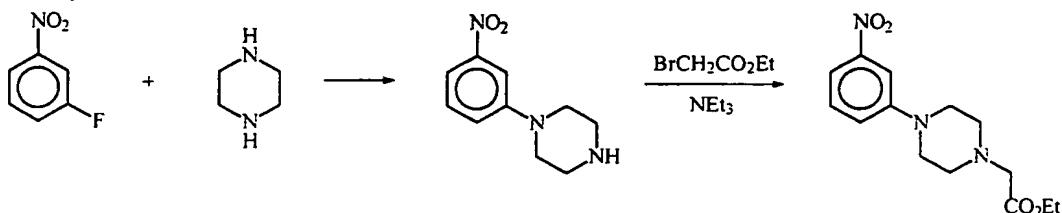
## Example 6a



1-Ethoxycarbonyl 4-(3-nitrobenzyl)-piperazine (6a). To a solution of 3-nitrobenzylbromide (2.2 g; 10.0 mmol) in NMP (5 ml) was added ethyl piperazine-1-carboxylate dropwise with stirring. At the end of the addition the temperature had reached 35°C. Triethylamine (1.39 ml) was added causing the temperature to rise to 40°C. The mixture was stirred for additionally 30 min. prior to dilution with diethyl ether (25 ml). The mixture was filtered and the filtrate was washed with water, dried over magnesium sulphate and concentrated under reduced pressure. The concentrate was

suspended in diethyl ether and filtered. The filtrate was diluted with ethyl acetate and extracted with diluted hydrochloric acid. The aqueous phase was rendered alkaline by addition of saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate and extracted with ethyl acetate. The organic phase was dried over magnesium sulphate and evaporated to dryness to 5 leave **6a** (1.72 g; 59%).

**Example 6b**



**1-(3-Nitrophenyl)-piperazine.** A suspension of 3-fluoronitrobenzene (23 ml; 10 0.21 mol) and piperazine (55.5 g; 0.64 mol) in anhydrous NMP (30 ml) was heated to 70°C for five days. The cooled mixture was diluted with water (250 ml) and extracted with dichloromethane. The combined extracts were dried over magnesium sulphate and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column-chromatography on silica gel eluting subsequently with mixtures of ethyl acetate and 15 methanol (4:1 v/v) and (1:1 v/v) to leave the desired product as oily crystals (30.7 g; 71%).

**Ethyl 2-(4-(3-nitrophenyl)-1-piperazinyl)-acetate (6b).** To a solution of 1-(3-nitrophenyl)piperazine (12.0 g; 58 mmol) in DMF (60 ml) was added sodium hydride (2.55 g; 64 mmol, 60% dispersion in mineral oil) in portions over 30 min. The mixture 20 was kept under nitrogen. Ethyl 2-bromoacetate (7.1 ml; 64 mmol) was added, the mixture was stirred at ambient temperature for one hour and then poured into water (250 ml). The oily precipitate was filtered off, re-dissolved in ethyl acetate and washed with water. The organic phase was dried over magnesium sulphate and evaporated to dryness to leave **6b** (11.0 g; 65%).

25 The following compound were prepared in analogy with Compound **6b**:

**Isopropyl 2-(4-(3-nitrophenyl)-1-piperazinyl)-acetate (6j)** from 1-(3-nitrophenyl)piperazine and isopropyl 2-bromoacetate.

**t-Butyl 2-(4-(3-nitrophenyl)-1-piperazinyl)-acetate (6i)** from 1-(3-nitrophenyl)piperazine and *t*-butyl 2-bromoacetate.

30 **1-(3-Nitrophenyl)-4-benzylpiperazine (6s)** from 1-(3-nitrophenyl)piperazine and benzylchloride.

**2-(1-(3-Nitrophenyl)-4-piperazinyl)-acetonitrile (6t)** from 1-(3-nitrophenyl)piperazine and 2-bromoacetonitrile.

1-(3-Nitrophenyl)-4-ethylhomopiperazine (6v) from 1-(3-nitrophenyl)homopiperazine (prepared analogously to 1-(3-nitrophenyl)piperazine) and iodoethane.

1-(3-Nitrophenyl)-4-methylpiperazine (6x) from 1-(3-nitrophenyl)piperazine and iodomethane.

1-(3-Nitrophenyl)-4-ethoxycarbonylmethyl-3,5-dimethylpiperazine (6y) from 1-(3-nitrophenyl)-2,6-dimethylpiperazine (prepared analogously to 1-(3-nitrophenyl)piperazine) and ethyl 2-bromoacetate.

1-(3-Nitrophenyl)-4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-piperazine (6z) from 1-(3-nitrophenyl)piperazine and 2-bromoethanol.

1-(3-Nitrophenyl)-4-ethyl-3,5-dimethylpiperazine (6aa) from 1-(3-nitrophenyl)-2,6-dimethylpiperazine (prepared analogously to 1-(3-nitrophenyl)piperazine) and iodoethane.

1-(3-Nitrophenyl)-4-((2-oxo-oxazolidin-5-yl)-methyl)-piperazine (6cc) from 1-(3-nitrophenyl)-piperazine and 5-chloromethyl-2-oxazolidinone.

1-(3-Nitrophenyl)-4-((5-methyloxadiazol-3-yl)-methyl)-piperazine (6dd) from 1-(3-nitrophenyl)piperazine and 3-chloromethyl-5-methyloxadizole.

1-(3-Nitrophenyl)-4-boc-piperazine (6ee) from 1-(3-nitrophenyl)-piperazine and Boc-anhydride.

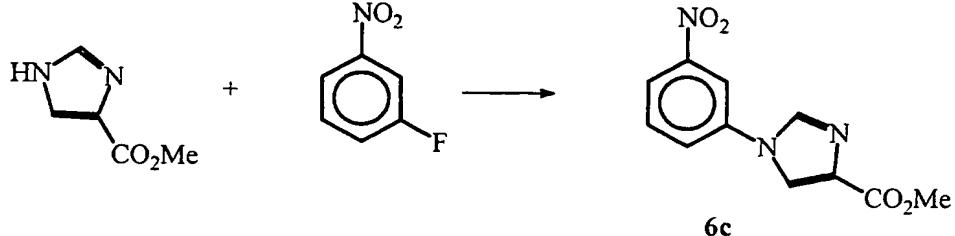
1-(3-Nitrophenyl)-4-boc-3,5-dimethylpiperazine (6ff) from 1-(3-nitrophenyl)-2,6-dimethylpiperazine (prepared analogously to 1-(3-nitrophenyl)-piperazine) and Boc-anhydride.

1-(3-Nitrophenyl)-4-(2-oxotetrahydrofuran-3-yl)-piperazine (6gg) from 1-(3-nitrophenyl)-piperazine and a-bromobutyrolactone.

1-(3-Nitrophenyl)-4-((N,N-diethylcarbamoyl)-methyl)-piperazine (6ii) from 1-(3-nitrophenyl)-piperazine and 2-chloro-N,N-diethylacetamide.

1-(3-Nitrophenyl)-4-(carbamoylmethyl)-piperazine (6jj) from 1-(3-nitrophenyl)-piperazine and 2-chloroacetamide.

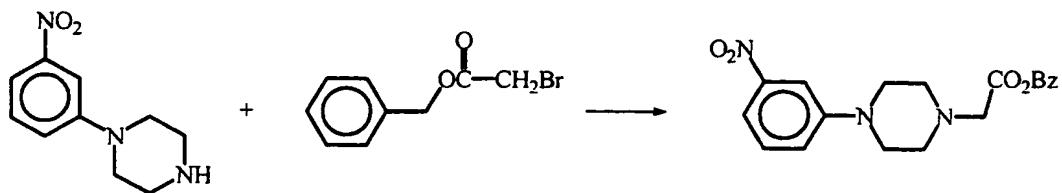
### 30 Example 6c



Methyl 1-(3-nitrophenyl)-imidazole-4-carboxylate (6c). A mixture of 3-fluoroniobenzene (1.78 ml; 16.7 mmol), methyl imidazole-4-carboxylate and

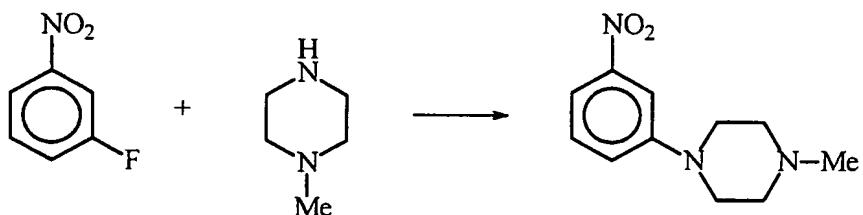
potassium carbonate (2.3 g; 16.7 mmol) in 10 ml NMP was heated to 120°C in a nitrogen atmosphere overnight. The cooled mixture was poured into water (100 ml), the precipitate was filtered off, washed with water and dried to yield **6c** (2.38 g; 58%).

### 5 Example 6d

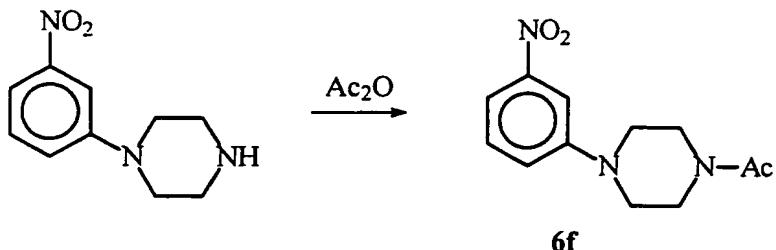


**Benzyl 2-(4-(3-nitrophenyl)-1-piperazinyl)-acetate (6d).** To a solution of 1-(3-nitrophenyl)piperazine (Example 6a) (10.0 g; 48.3 mmol) in anhydrous DMF (50 ml) 10 was added sodium hydride (2.12 g, 60% dispersion in mineral oil; 53.1 mmol) in small portions. The mixture was stirred and benzyl 2-bromoacetate was added. The addition was extremely exothermic. The reaction mixture was left with stirring at ambient temperature overnight. The mixture was poured into water (200 ml) and extracted with ethyl acetate. The combined extracts were dried over magnesium sulphate and 15 concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column-chromatography on silica gel using ethyl acetate as the eluent to yield **6c** (14.4 g; 84%).

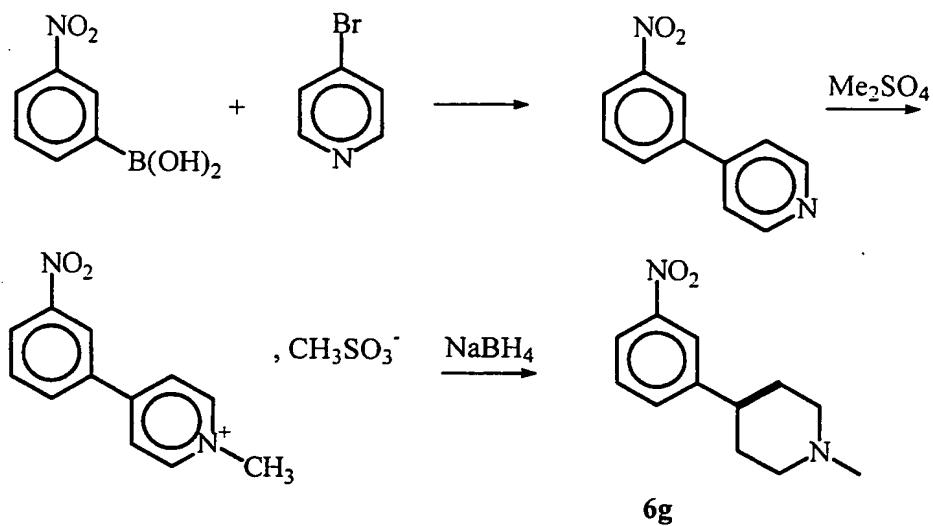
### Example 6e



**1-(3-Nitrophenyl)-4-methylpiperazine (6e).** A mixture of 3-fluoronitrobenzene (20 ml; 0.19 mol) and 1-methylpiperazine (40 ml; 0.36 mol) was heated to 120°C for a week. The cooled mixture was purified by column-chromatography on silica gel using a mixture of ethyl acetate and methanol (9:1 v/v) 25 as the eluent. Yield: 33 g (79%).

**Example 6f**

**1-Acetyl-4-(3-nitrophenyl)-piperazine (6f).** A mixture of 1-(3-nitrophenyl)piperazine (Example 6a) (33.0 g; 0.16 mol) and acetic anhydride (130 ml) was stirred at ambient temperature overnight. The excess of acetic anhydride was removed by evaporation and saturated aqueous sodium carbonate was added to the residue with stirring. The precipitate was filtered off, washed with water and dried to leave 6f (39 g; 98%).

**10 Example 6g**

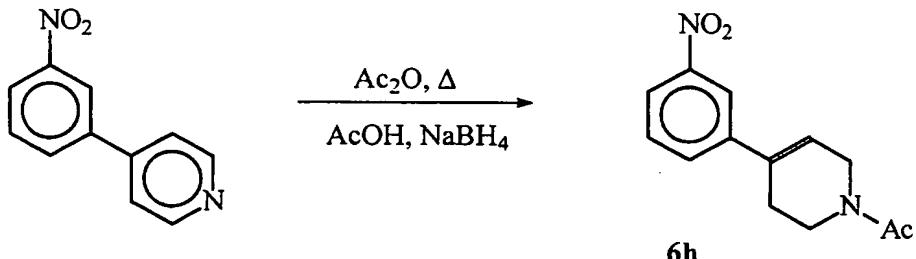
**4-(3-Nitrophenyl)-pyridine.** A mixture of 4-bromopyridine, hydrochloride (8.03; 41.3 mmol), 3-nitrophenylboronic acid (6.85 g; 41.0 mmol), potassium carbonate (34.2 g; 0.25 mol), 1,3-propandiol (14.9 ml; 0.21 mol) and tetrakis(triphenylphosphine)palladium (0.2 g) in a mixture of dimethoxyethane (80 ml) and water (40 ml) was stirred at 80°C in a nitrogen atmosphere overnight. The cooled mixture was diluted with ethyl acetate and filtered through celite. The filtrate was evaporated to dryness and water was added to the residue. Vigorously stirring caused the product to precipitate. The product was filtered off, washed with water, dried and subsequently washed with petroleum ether. Yield: 8.15 g (99%).

1-Methyl-4-(3-nitrophenyl)-pyridinium monomethyl-sulphate. A mixture of 4-(3-nitrophenyl)pyridine (4.0 g; 20 mmol) and dimethylsulphate (10 ml) was heated to 100°C for five days. The cooled mixture was diluted with diethyl ether (50 ml) and stirred thoroughly. The mixture was decanted and the oily bottom layer was washed 5 additionally three times with diethyl ether and once with ethanol to leave the crystalline product (2.9 g; 47%).

1-Methyl-4-(3-nitrophenyl)-1,2,5,6-tetrahydropyridine (6g). To a suspension of 1-methyl-4-(3-nitrophenyl)pyridinium monomethylsulphate (2.8 g; 9.03 mmol) in methanol (50 ml) was added sodium borohydride (0.68 g; 18.0 mmol) in portions over 10 30 min. Following the addition the mixture was stirred at ambient temperature overnight. The mixture was diluted with water (200 ml) and extracted with ethyl acetate (2 × 100 ml). The combined extracts were washed with brine, dried over magnesium sulphate and evaporated to dryness. Trituration of the residue with diethyl ether left the crystalline product (1.7 g; 86%).

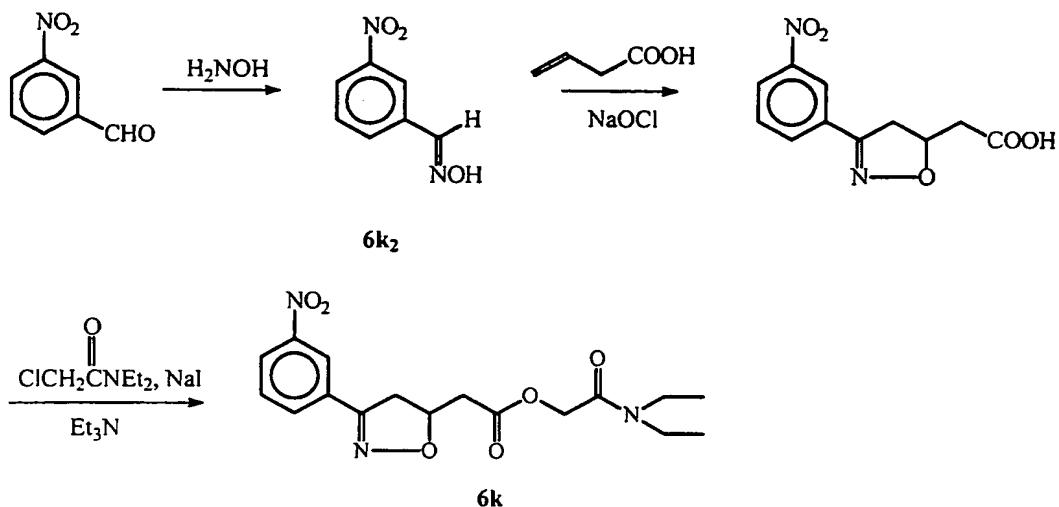
15 1-Ethyl-4-(3-nitrophenyl)-1,2,5,6-tetrahydropyridine (6bb) was prepared analogously by alkylation with iodoethane.

### Example 6h



20

1-Acetyl-4-(3-nitrophenyl)-1,2,5,6-tetrahydropyridine (6h). To a mixture of 4-(3-nitrophenyl)pyridine (Example 6g) (4.0 g; 20.0 mmol) and acetic anhydride (20 ml) in glacial acetic acid (30 ml) was added sodium borohydride (1.51 g; 40.0 mmol) in portions over one hour. The resulting mixture was stirred at ambient temperature for 25 five days and then poured into ice-water. The mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate, the organic phase was washed with water, dried over magnesium sulphate and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was eluted through silica gel with ethyl acetate to yield **6h** (1.29 g; 26%).

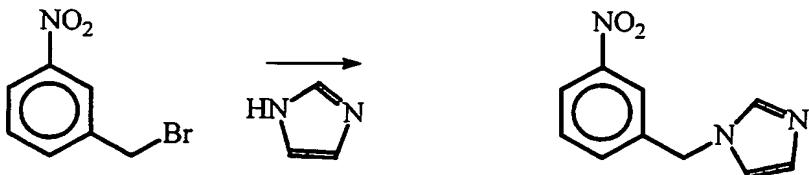
**Example 6k**

**3-Nitrobenzaldehyde oxime (6k<sub>2</sub>).** To a solution of 3-nitrobenzaldehyde (5.0 g; 33.1 mmol) in abs. ethanol (40 ml) was added hydroxylamine, hydrochloride (3.45 g; 49.6 mmol) and the resulting suspension was heated to reflux overnight. The cooled mixture was poured into water (100 ml) and the product was filtered off and dried. Yield: 4.5 g (82%).

**2-(3-(3-Nitrophenyl)-4,5-dihydroisoxazol-5-yl)-acetic acid.** To a solution of 6k<sub>2</sub> (3.1 g; 18.8 mmol) in THF (30 ml) was added vinylacetic acid (3.41 ml; 56.4 mmol). An aqueous solution of sodium hypochlorite (47 ml; 0.2 M) was added dropwise keeping the temperature between 25-30°C. Following the addition the mixture was stirred at ambient temperature overnight. pH was adjusted to 4 by addition of aqueous citric acid and the mixture was extracted thrice with diethyl ether. The combined extracts were dried over sodium sulphate and concentrated under reduced pressure. The concentrate was purified by column-chromatography on silica gel using a mixture of ethyl acetate and methanol (9:1 v/v) as the eluent. Yield: 4.7 g (98%).

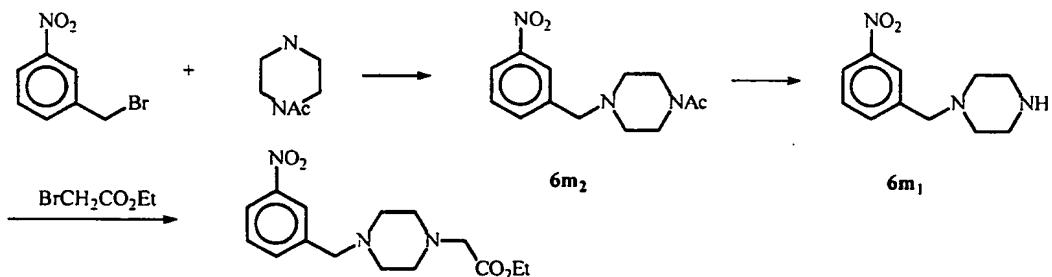
**N,N-Diethylcarbamoylmethyl 2-(3-(3-nitrophenyl)-4,5-dihydroisoxazol-5-yl)-acetate (6k).** A mixture of 6k<sub>2</sub> (4.6 g; 18.4 mmol), 2-chloro N,N-diethylacetamide (2.53 ml; 18.4 mmol), triethylamine (5.1 ml; 36.6 mmol) and a catalytic amount of sodium iodide in anhydrous DMF (25 ml) was stirred at ambient temperature overnight. The solvent was removed by evaporation under reduced pressure and the residue was partitioned between water and ethyl acetate. The organic phase was dried over sodium sulphate and concentrated under reduced pressure.

## Example 6l

**6l**

**1-(3-Nitrobenzyl)-imidazole (6k).** A mixture of 3-nitrobenzylbromide (10 g; 46.3 mmol) and imidazole (6.3 g; 92.5 mmol) in NMP (10 ml) was stirred at 80°C overnight. The cooled mixture was poured into ice-water and rendered alkaline by addition of aqueous sodium hydroxide (4 M). The precipitate was filtered off, washed with water and dried to yield 6l (6.9 g; 73%).

## Example 6m



10

**6m**

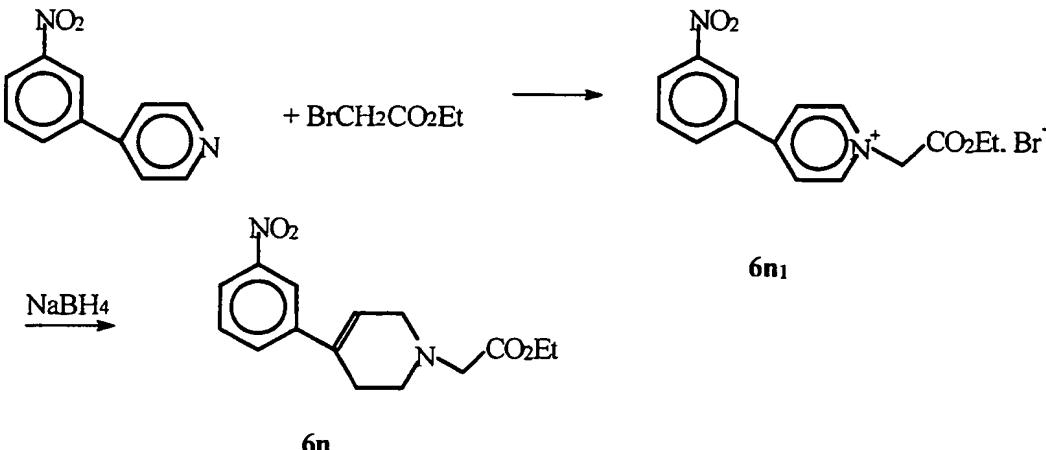
**1-Acetyl-4-(3-nitrobenzyl)-piperazine (6m<sub>2</sub>).** To a solution of 1-acetyl piperazine (5.0 g; 39.0 mmol) in THF (50 ml) was added triethylamine (5.6 ml; 39.0 mmol) and 3-nitrobenzylbromide (8.4 g; 39.0 mmol). The mixture was stirred at ambient temperature for 1 hour and the solvent was removed by evaporation. The residue was partitioned between water and ethyl acetate. The organic phase was dried over sodium sulphate and evaporated under reduced pressure to leave 6m<sub>2</sub>, quantitatively.

**1-(3-Nitrobenzyl)-piperazine (6m<sub>1</sub>).** To a solution of 6m<sub>2</sub> (10.2 g; 39.0 mmol) in dimethoxyethane (100 ml) was added aqueous sodium hydroxide (120 ml; 1 M) and the mixture heated to reflux overnight. The mixture was evaporated to dryness and the residue was extracted with a mixture of ethanol and dichloromethane (2:1 v/v). The extract was evaporated to dryness to leave 6m<sub>1</sub> (6.1 g; 71%).

**Ethyl 2-(4-(3-nitrobenzyl)-1-piperazinyl)-acetate (6m).** To a solution of 6m<sub>1</sub> (2.5 g; 11.3 mmol) in anhydrous DMF (20 ml) was added sodium hydride (13.6 mmol; 0.54 g 60% dispersion in mineral oil) and ethyl 2-bromoacetate (1.25 ml; 11.3 mmol).

The exothermic reaction was completed in 15 min. The mixture was poured into ice-water and extracted with ethyl acetate. The organic extract was dried over sodium sulphate and evaporated to dryness to leave **6m** quantitatively.

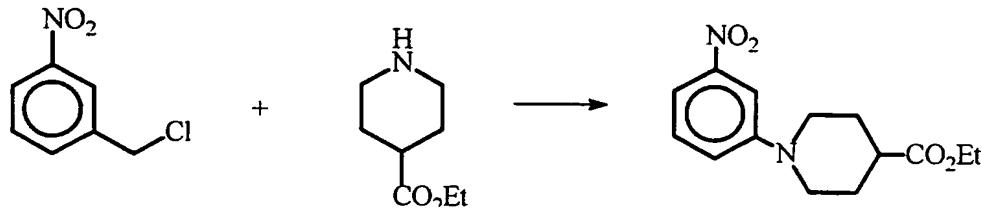
### 5 Example 6n



**1-(Ethoxy-carbonyl-methyl)-4-(3-nitrophenyl)-pyridinium bromide (**6n<sub>1</sub>**).** A mixture of 4-(3-nitrophenyl)pyridine (2.25 g; 11.3 mmol) and ethyl 2-bromoacetate (1.5 ml; 13.5 mmol) in THF (10 ml) was heated to reflux overnight. The cooled mixture was 10 filtered and the crystalline product was washed with THF and dried to leave **6n<sub>1</sub>** (3.49 g; 84%).

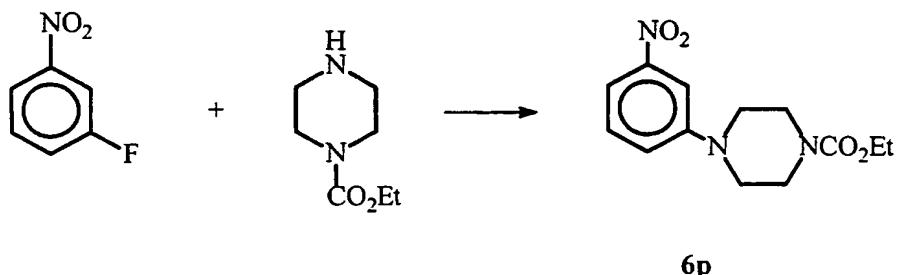
**1-(Ethoxy-carbonyl-methyl)-4-(3-nitrophenyl)-1,2,5,6-tetrahydropyridine (**6n**).** To a suspension of **6n<sub>1</sub>** (2.90 g; 7.88 mmol) in abs. ethanol (50 ml) was added sodium borohydride (0.60 g; 15.9 mmol) in portions over 1 hour. The mixture was 15 stirred at ambient temperature for two days, poured into ice-water and extracted with ethyl acetate. The extract was dried over sodium sulphate, concentrated and eluted through silica gel with ethyl acetate to yield **6n** (1.65 g; 72%).

### Example 6o



Ethyl 1-(3-nitrophenyl)-piperidine-4-carboxylate (6o). To a solution of 3-nitrobenzylchloride (2.0 g; 11.7 mmol) and triethylamine (1.65 ml; 11.7 mmol) in NMP (3 ml) was added ethyl isonipecotate (1.8 ml; 11.7 mmol). The mixture was heated to 80°C overnight. The cooled mixture was poured into water and extracted with ethyl acetate. The organic extract was washed with brine, dried over sodium sulphate and evaporated to dryness to leave **6o**, quantitatively.

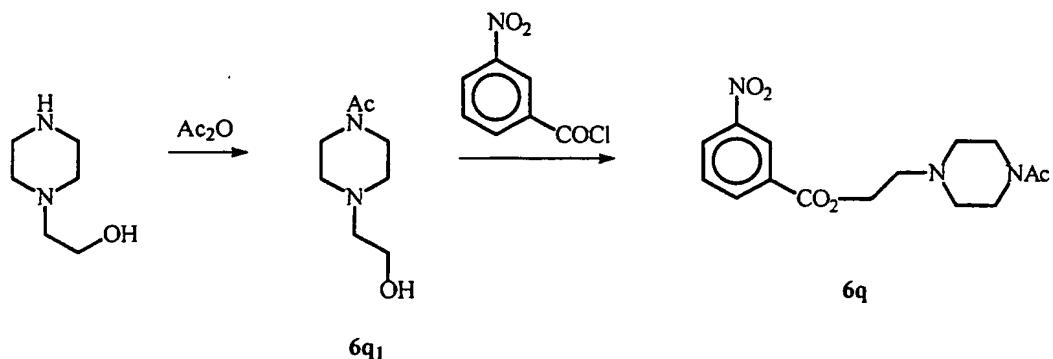
**Example 6p**



**6p**

1-Ethoxycarbonyl-4-(3-nitrophenyl)-piperazine (6p). To a solution of 3-fluoro-1-nitrobenzene (3.37 ml; 31.6 mmol) in NMP (5 ml) was added triethylamine (4.38 ml; 31.6 mmol) and ethyl 1-piperazinecarboxylate (4.63 ml; 31.6 mmol) and the mixture was heated to 120°C for five days. The cooled mixture was poured into ice-water and a small volume of ethanol was added. Vigorous stirring caused the product to precipitate. The product was filtered off, washed with petroleum ether and dried to leave **6p** (3.34 g; 38%).

**Example 6q**



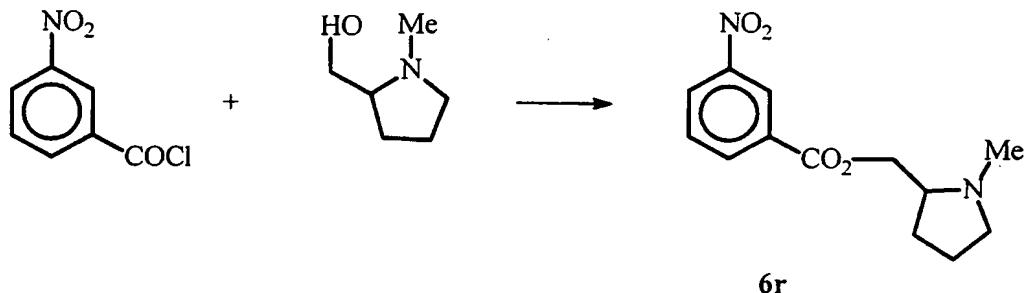
**6q**

1-Acetyl-4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-piperazine (6q<sub>1</sub>). To a solution of 1-(2-hydroxyethyl)piperazine (5.5 ml; 42.3 mmol) in toluene (50 ml) was added acetic anhydride (4.0 ml; 42.4 mmol). The mixture was heated to 80°C overnight. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the residue was washed several

times with a mixture of diethyl ether and petroleum ether (1:1 v/v) to leave **6q<sub>1</sub>** as an oil (5.2 g; 72%).

**2-(1-Acetyl-4-piperazinyl)-ethyl 3-nitrobenzoate (6q).** To a solution of 3-nitrobenzoyl chloride (2.5 g; 13.5 mmol) in a mixture of THF (25 ml) and DMF (5 ml) 5 was added triethylamine (1.87 ml; 13.5 mmol), a catalytic amount of 4-(N,N-dimethylamino)pyridine and **6q<sub>1</sub>** (2.32 g; 13.5 mmol). The mixture was heated to 80°C for 2 hours whereafter the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was re-dissolved in dichloromethane and extracted with diluted hydrochloride acid (4 M). The aqueous phase was rendered alkaline by addition of aqueous sodium 10 hydroxide (4 M) and extracted with dichloromethane. This extract was dried over sodium sulphate and concentrated under reduced pressure. The concentrate was purified by column-chromatography on silica gel using a mixture of dichloromethane, methanol and aqueous ammonia (90:10:1 v/v/v) as the eluent. Yield: 1.0 g (23%).

15 **Example 6r**



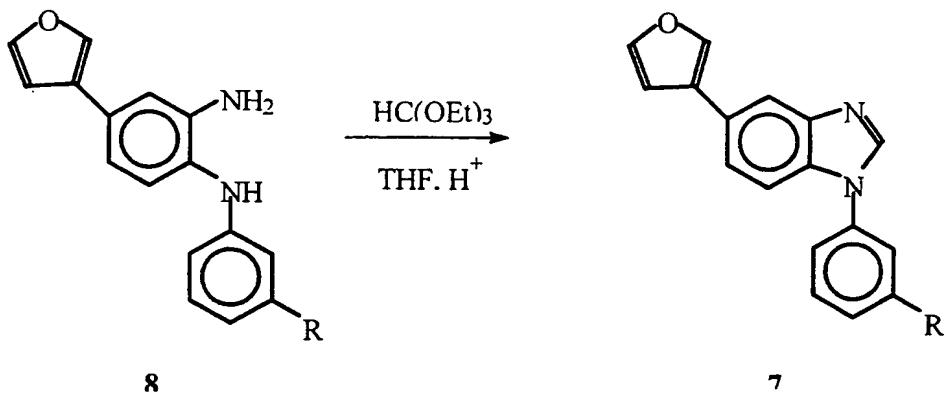
**(1-Methyl-2-pyrrolidinyl)-methyl 3-nitrobenzoate (6r).** To a solution of 3-nitrobenzoylchloride (2.5 g; 13.5 mmol) in THF (25 ml) was added triethylamine (1.87 ml; 13.5 mmol), a catalytic amount of 4-(N,N-dimethylamino)pyridine and (S)-(-)-1-methyl-2-pyrrolidinemethanol (1.61 ml; 13.5 mmol). The mixture was heated to reflux for 1.5 hours and left with stirring at ambient temperature overnight. The solvent was removed by evaporation and the residue was partitioned between dichloromethane and diluted hydrochloric acid (4 M). The aqueous phase was rendered alkaline by addition of aqueous sodium hydroxide (4 M) and extracted with dichloromethane. The 20 organic extract was dried over sodium sulphate and evaporated to leave **6r** (2.8 g; 78%).

The concentrate was purified by column-chromatography on silica gel using a mixture of ethyl acetate and petroleum ether as the eluent (9:1 v/v). Yield: 2.6 g (38%).

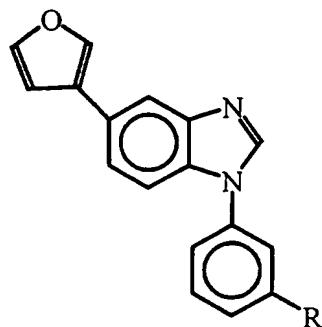
**Example 6u**

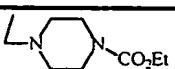
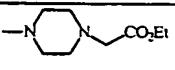
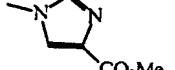
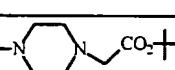
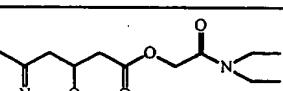
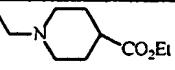
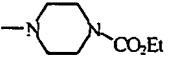
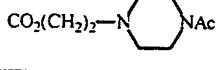
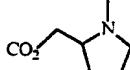
**1-(3-Nitrophenyl)-4-((1-methyl-5-tetrazolyl)-methyl)-piperazine (6u).** A solution of **6t** (2.40 g; 10.0 mmol), sodium azide (1.43 g; 22.0 mmol) and ammonium chloride (0.64 g; 12.0 mmol) in DMF (25 ml) was heated to 120°C over night. The 5 cooled mixture was poured into ice-water and the precipitate was filtered off, washed with water and air-dried to leave a tetrazole (2.03 g).

This intermediary product was suspended in DMF (25 ml) in a nitrogen atmosphere and sodium hydride (0.28 g, 7.0 mmol) was added. When the evolution of hydrogen had ceased iodo-methane (0.44 ml; 7.1 mmol) was added and the mixture 10 was stirred at ambient temperature for 4 hours. The mixture was diluted with four volumes of water and extracted with ethyl acetate. The extract was dried over magnesium sulphate and evaporated to dryness. The residue was triturated with a mixture of diethyl ether and petroleum ether (1:1 v/v) to leave **6u**. Yield: 0.95 g.

15 **Example 7**

The furanyl substituted benzimidazoles of Table 5 were all prepared according to the above scheme as exemplified for compound **7a** below.

20 **Table 5**

Comp. No.	R	Mp (°C)	Yield (%)	Starting material	Salt
7a		248-250	100	8a	HCl
7b		113-114.5	83	8b	
7c		221-223	100	8c	
7d		131-132	37	8d	
7e		oil	77	8e	
7f		oil	47	8f	
7g		114-115	29	8g	
7h		oil	82	8h	
7i		131-132	48	8i	
7j		167-168	78	8j	HCl
7k		198-200	38	8k	HCl

5-(3-Furanyl)-1-(3-((4-ethoxycarbonyl-1-piperazinyl)-methyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole (7a).

To a solution of **8a** (0.13 g; 0.31 mmol) in THF was added triethyl orthoformate (0.1 ml; 0.62 mmol) and a catalytic amount of p-toluenesulfonic acid.

5 The mixture was heated to 80°C for 30 min. The cooled mixture was diluted with ethyl acetate and washed with aqueous sodium hydroxide and water, successively. The organic phase was dried over sodium sulphate and concentrated to a small volume. The product precipitated as the hydrochloride upon addition of ethereal hydrogen chloride. Filtration left the product, quantitatively. Mp. 248-250°C.

10 The following compound were prepared in analogy with Compound **7a**:

5-(3-Furanyl)-1-(3-(1-(ethoxy-carbonyl-methyl)-4-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole (7b) from **8b**. The product was purified on silica gel using a mixture of

ethyl acetate and ethanol (9:1 v/v) and was isolated as the free base. Mp. 113-114.5°C.

5-(3-Furanyl)-1-(3-(4-methoxycarbonyl-1-imidazolyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole (7c) from **8c**. Mp. 221-223°C.

5 5-(3-Furanyl)-1-(3-(4-t-butoxycarbonylmethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole (7d) from **8d**. The product was purified on silica gel using ethyl acetate as the eluent and was isolated as the free base. Mp. 131-132°C.

10 N,N-Diethylcarbamoylmethyl 2-(3-(3-(3-furanyl)-1-benzimidazolyl)-phenyl)-4,5-dihydroisoxazole-5-yl)-acetate (7e) from **8e**. The product was purified on silica gel using ethyl acetate as the eluent and was isolated as the free base.

5-(3-Furanyl)-1-(3-(1-ethoxycarbonylmethyl-4-piperazinylmethyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole (7f) from **8f**. The product was purified on silica gel using a mixture of ethyl acetate and ethanol (9:1 v/v) as the eluent and was isolated as the free base.

15 5-(3-Furanyl)-1-(3-(1-ethoxycarbonylmethyl-4-piperidyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole (7g) from **8g**. The product was purified on silica gel using ethyl acetate as the eluent and was isolated as the free base. Mp. 114.5-115°C.

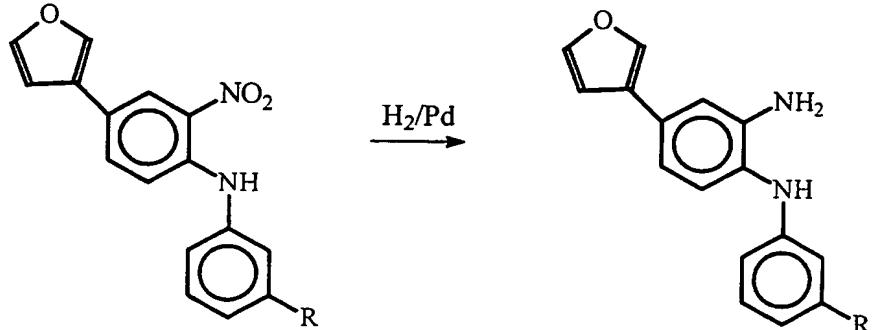
5-(3-Furanyl)-1-(3-(4-ethoxycarbonylpiperid-1-ylmethyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole (7h) from **8h**. The product was purified on silica gel using a mixture of ethyl acetate and ethanol (9:1 v/v) as the eluent and was isolated as the free base.

20 5-(3-Furanyl)-1-(3-(1-ethoxycarbonyl-4-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole (7i) from **8i**. The product was purified on silica gel using ethyl acetate as the eluent and was isolated as the free base. Mp. 131-132°C.

2-(1-Acetyl-4-piperazinyl)-ethyl 3-(5-(3-furanyl)-1-benzimidazolyl)-benzoate (7j) from **8j**. Mp. 167-168°C.

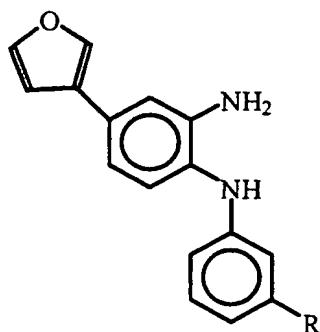
25 1-Methyl-2-pyrrolidylmethyl 3-(5-(3-furanyl)-1-benzimidazolyl)-benzoate (7k) from **8k**. Mp. 198-200°C.

### Example 8



The furanyl substituted phenylenediamines of Table 6 were all prepared quantitatively by hydrogenation of the corresponding nitro compounds (9) as exemplified for compound 8a below.

5 Table 6



Comp. No.	R	Starting material
8a		9a
8b		9b
8c		9c
8d		9d
8e		9e
8f		9f
8g		9g
8h		8h
8i		9i
8j		9j
8k		9k

2-Amino-4-(3-furanyl)-N-(3-(1-ethoxycarbonyl-4-piperazinylmethyl)-phenyl)-aniline (8a). To a suspension of **9a** (0.37 g; 0.82 mmol) in ethanol (10 ml) was added Pd-catalyst (5% Pd on activated carbon) and the mixture was hydrogenated until the hydrogen uptake had ceased. The mixture was filtered through celite and the solvent 5 removed by evaporation to leave the desired product, quantitatively.

The following compound were prepared in analogy with Compound **8a**:

2-Amino-4-(3-furanyl)-N-(3-(1-ethoxycarbonylmethyl-4-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-aniline (8b) from **9b**.

2-Amino-4-(3-furanyl)-N-(3-(4-methoxycarbonyl-1-imidazolyl)-phenyl)-aniline (8c) from **9c** using methanol as the solvent.

2-Amino-4-(3-furanyl)-N-(3-(1-t-butoxycarbonyl-4-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-aniline (8d) from **9d** using THF as the solvent.

N,N-Diethylcarbamoylmethyl 2-(3-(3-(2-amino-4-(3-furanyl)-phenylamino)-phenyl)-4,5-dihydroisoxazolin-5-yl)-acetate (8e) from **9e** using THF as the solvent.

2-Amino-4-(3-furanyl)-N-(3-(1-ethoxycarbonylmethyl-4-piperazinylmethyl)-phenyl)-aniline (8f) from **9f**.

2-Amino-4-(3-furanyl)-N-(3-(1-ethoxycarbonyl-4-piperidyl)-phenyl)-aniline (8g) from **9g**.

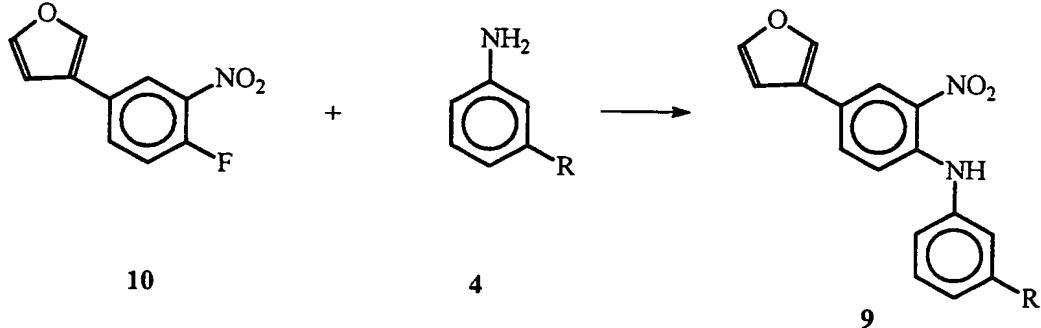
2-Amino-4-(3-furanyl)-N-(3-(4-ethoxycarbonyl-1-piperidylmethyl)-phenyl)-aniline (8h) from **9h**.

2-Amino-4-(3-furanyl)-N-(3-(4-ethoxycarbonyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-aniline (8i) from **9i**.

2-(4-Acetyl-1-piperazinyl)ethyl 3-(N-(2-amino-4-(3-furanyl)-phenyl)-amino)-benzoate (8j) from **9j** using THF as the solvent.

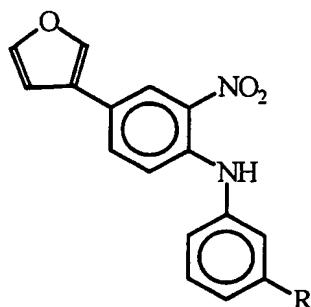
1-Methyl-2-pyrrolidylmethyl 3-(N-(2-amino-4-(3-furanyl)-phenyl)-amino)-benzoate (8k) from **9k** using THF as the solvent.

### Example 9



The furanyl substituted nitroanilines of Table 7 were all prepared by reaction of **10** (prepared as described in WO 96/33194) with substituted anilines (**4** (see Example 4)) as described for compound **9a** below.

5 Table 7



Compound No.	R	Starting materials	Yield
9a		<b>10, 4a</b>	23
9b		<b>10, 4b</b>	10
9c		<b>10, 4c</b>	10
9d		<b>10, 4i</b>	61
9e		<b>10, 4k</b>	15
9f		<b>10, 4m</b>	13
9g		<b>10, 4n</b>	34
9h		<b>10, 4o</b>	38
9i		<b>10, 4p</b>	29
9j		<b>10, 4q</b>	51
9k		<b>10, 4r</b>	34

2-Nitro-4-(3-furanyl)-N-(3-(1-ethoxycarbonyl-4-piperazinylmethyl)-phenyl)-aniline (9a). To a solution of **10** (0.75 g; 3.61 mmol) in NMP (5 ml) was added triethylamine (0.53 ml; 3.61 mmol) and **4a** (1.0 g; 3.83 mmol). The mixture was heated 5 to 110°C for two days and then poured into water and extracted with ethyl acetate. The organic extract was washed with brine, dried over magnesium sulphate and concentrated under reduced pressure. The concentrate was purified by column-chromatography on silica gel using a mixture of ethyl acetate and petroleum ether (1:1 v/v) as the eluent. Yield: 23%.

10 The following compound were prepared in analogy with Compound **9a**:

2-Nitro-4-(3-furanyl)-N-(3-(1-ethoxycarbonylmethyl-4-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-aniline (9b) from **10** and **4b**.

2-Nitro-4-(3-furanyl)-N-(3-(4-methoxycarbonyl-1-imidazolyl)-phenyl)-aniline (9c) from **10** and **4c**. Ethyl acetate was used as the eluent.

15 2-Nitro-4-(3-furanyl)-N-(3-(1-t-butoxycarbonyl-4-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-aniline (9d) from **10** and **4i**.

N,N-Diethylcarbamoylmethyl 2-(3-(N-(2-nitro-4-(3-furanyl)-phenyl)-amino)-phenyl)-4,5-dihydroisoxazolin-5-yl)-acetate (9e) from **10** and **4k**. A mixture of ethyl acetate and petroleum ether (9:1 v/v) was used as the eluent.

20 2-Nitro-4-(3-furanyl)-N-(3-(1-ethoxycarbonylmethyl-4-piperazinylmethyl)-phenyl)-aniline (9f) from **10** and **4m**.

2-Nitro-4-(3-furanyl)-N-(3-(1-ethoxycarbonyl-4-piperidyl)-phenyl)-aniline (9g) from **10** and **4n**. Ethyl acetate was used as the eluent.

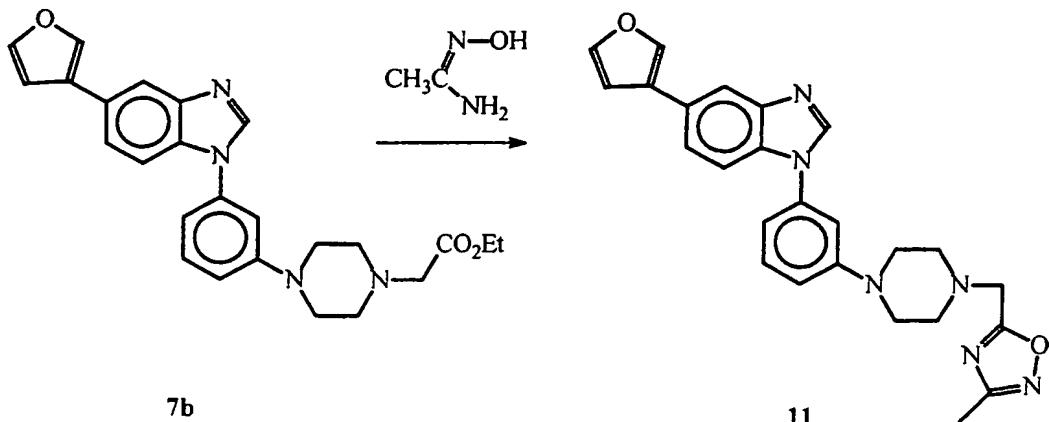
25 2-Nitro-4-(3-furanyl)-N-(3-(4-ethoxycarbonyl-1-piperidylmethyl)-phenyl)-aniline 9h from **10** and **4o**.

2-Nitro-4-(3-furanyl)-N-(3-(4-ethoxycarbonyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-aniline (9i) from **10** and **4p**.

2-(4-Acetyl-1-piperazinyl)ethyl 3-(N-(2-nitro-4-(3-furanyl)-phenyl)-amino)-benzoate (9j) from **10** and **4q**. Ethyl acetate was used as the eluent.

30 1-Methyl-2-pyrrolidylmethyl 3-(N-(2-nitro-4-(3-furanyl)-phenyl)-amino)-benzoate (9k) from **10** and **4r**. A mixture of dichloromethane, methanol and aqueous ammonia (90:10:1) was used as the eluent.

### Example 10

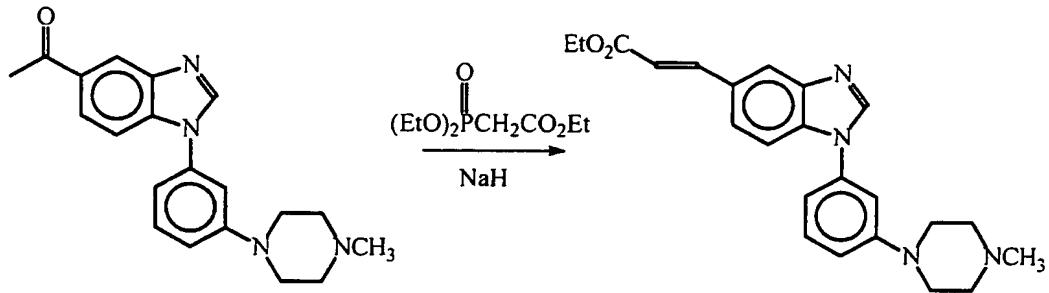


5-(3-Furanyl)-1-(3-(1-(3-methyl-5-oxadiazolyl)methyl)-4-piperazine)-phenyl-benzimidazole (11). To a solution of sodium (0.12 g; 5.2 mmol) in abs. ethanol (10 ml) was added molecular sieves (0.5 g), acetamide-oxime (0.19 g; 2.57 mmol) and **7b** (1.0 g; 2.32 mmol). The mixture was heated to reflux overnight. The cooled suspension was diluted with dichloromethane (50 ml) and stirred until all organic material had dissolved. The molecular sieves were filtered off and the filtrate was washed with water and brine, dried over sodium sulphate and evaporated to dryness.

10 The residue was dissolved in toluene and a catalytic amount of p-toluenesulfonic acid was added. The mixture was heated to 100°C overnight, whereafter the cooled mixture was washed with aqueous sodium carbonate, dried over sodium sulphate and evaporated to dryness. The residue was triturated with diethyl ether to yield **11** (0.47 g; 46%). Mp. 129-130°C.

15

### Example 11

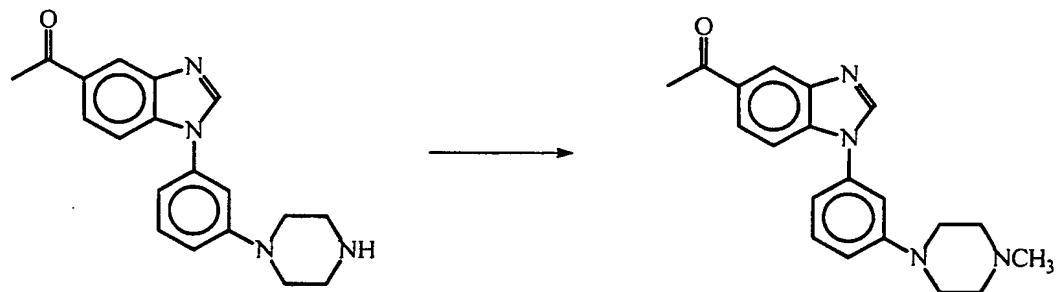


13

12

Ethyl (E)-3-(1-(3-(4-methyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazol-5-yl)-propenoate (12). To a suspension of sodium hydride (40 mg, 60% dispersion in mineral oil, 1.0 mmol) kept in an inert atmosphere was added triethylphosphono-

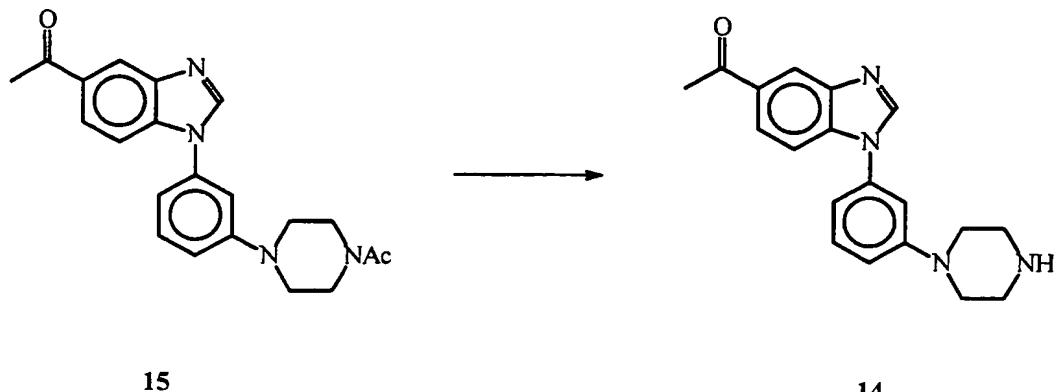
acetate (0.2 ml; 1.0 mmol). The mixture was stirred at ambient temperature until a clear solution had formed. A solution **13** (0.33 g; 0.94 mmol) in anhydrous toluene (5 ml) was added. Stirring was continued for 15 min at room temperature whereafter the temperature was raised to 60-65°C overnight. The solvents were removed under 5 reduced pressure and the residue was partitioned between ethyl acetate and water. The phases were separated and the aqueous phase was extracted thrice with ethyl acetate. The combined organic extracts were dried over magnesium sulphate and concentrated. The concentrate was purified by column-chromatography on silica gel using a mixture of dichloromethane, methanol and aqueous ammonia (90:10:1 v/v/v) 10 as the eluent. The product-containing fractions were evaporated to dryness, re-dissolved in abs. ethanol and precipitated as the hydrochloride by addition of ethereal hydrogen chloride. Yield: 0.28 g (68%). Mp. 180-190°C (with decomposition).



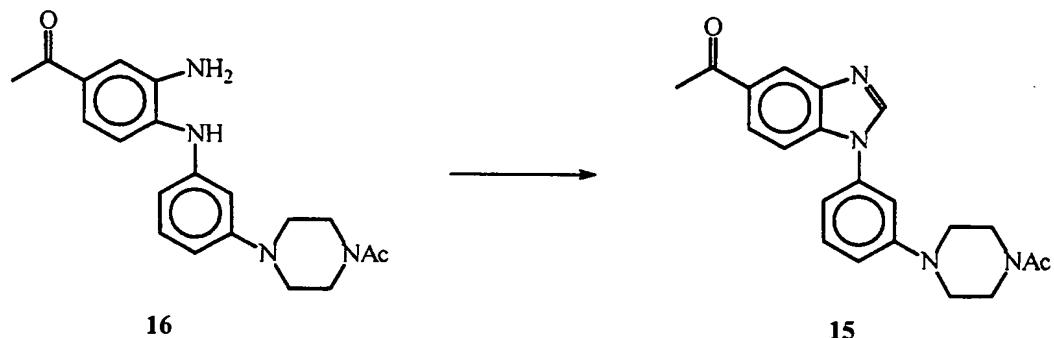
14

13

5-Acetyl-1-(3-(4-methyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole (13). To a 15 solution of **14** (0.75 g; 2.34 mmol) in anhydrous DMF (10 ml) was added sodium hydride (0.1 g, 60% dispersion in mineral oil). The mixture was stirred for 30 min and iodo-methane (0.15 ml; 2.34 mmol) was added. After one hour the mixture was poured into ice-water and extracted with ethyl acetate. The extract was dried over magnesium sulphate and concentrated under reduced pressure. The concentrate was 20 purified by column-chromatography using mixtures of ethyl acetate and methanol (9:1 v/v, 1:1 v/v), successively as eluents. Yield: 0.34 g (41%).



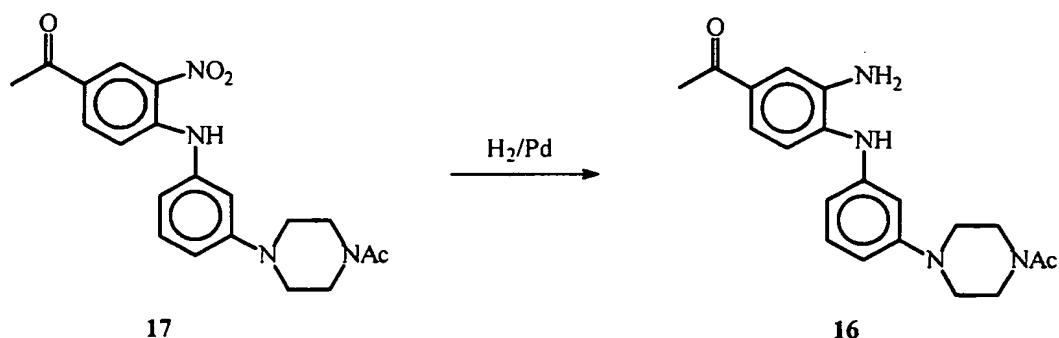
**5-Acetyl-1-(3-(1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole (14).** To a solution of **15** (8.3 g; 23.0 mmol) in dimethoxyethane (140 ml) was added aqueous sodium hydroxide (70 ml; 1 M) and the mixture was heated to reflux overnight. The volatile solvent was removed and the aqueous suspension was extracted with dichloromethane. This extract was dried over sodium sulphate, concentrated and eluted through a silica gel column with a mixture of dichloromethane, methanol and aqueous ammonia (90:10:1 v/v/v). Yield: 4.8 g (65%).



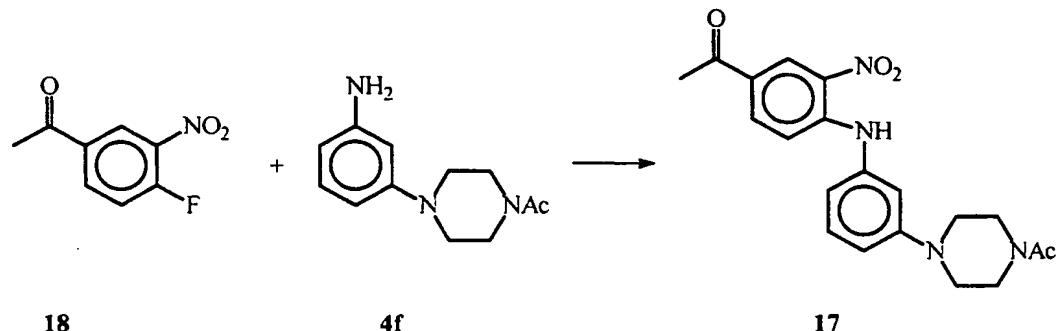
**5-Acetyl-1-(3-(1-acetyl-4-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole (15).** **16** (17.7 g; 50.3 mmol) was treated with triethyl orthoformate as described in Example 1. The product was purified by column-chromatography on silica gel using a mixture of dichloromethane, methanol and aqueous ammonia (90:10:1 v/v/v) as the eluent. Yield: 16.0 g (88%).

**2-(3,5-dimethyl-1-piperazinyl)ethyl 3-(5-acetylbenzimidazol-1-yl)-benzoate** was prepared analogously to **15**. The compound was treated hydroxylamine hydrochloride in abs. ethanol to yield **2-(3,5-dimethyl-1-piperazinyl)ethyl 3-(5-acetylbenzimidazol-1-yl)-benzoate oxime (15a)** Mp. 255-260°C.

**2-(2-pyridyl)methyl 3-(5-acetylbenzimidazol-1-yl)-benzoate** was prepared analogously to **15**. This compound was treated hydroxylamine hydrochloride in abs. ethanol to yield **2-(2-pyridyl)-methyl 3-(5-acetylbenzimidazol-1-yl)-benzoate oxime (15b)** Mp. 162-163°C.

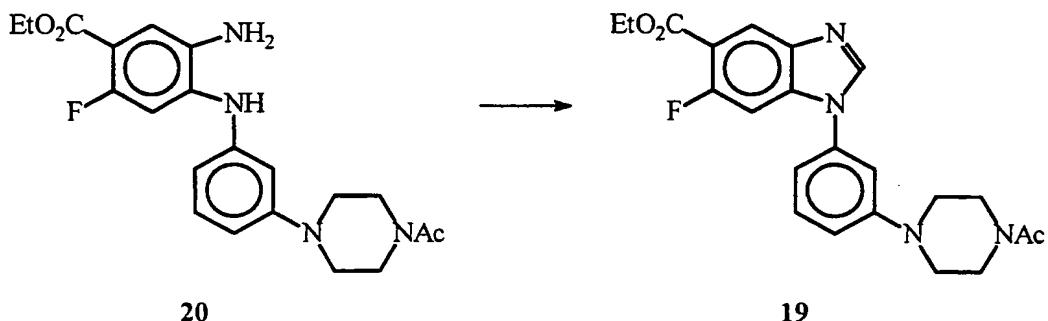


**N-(4-Acetyl-2-aminophenyl)-3-(1-acetyl-4-piperazinyl)-aniline (16).** 17 (45 g; 93.6 mmol) was hydrogenated as described in Example 2 to yield **16**, quantitatively.

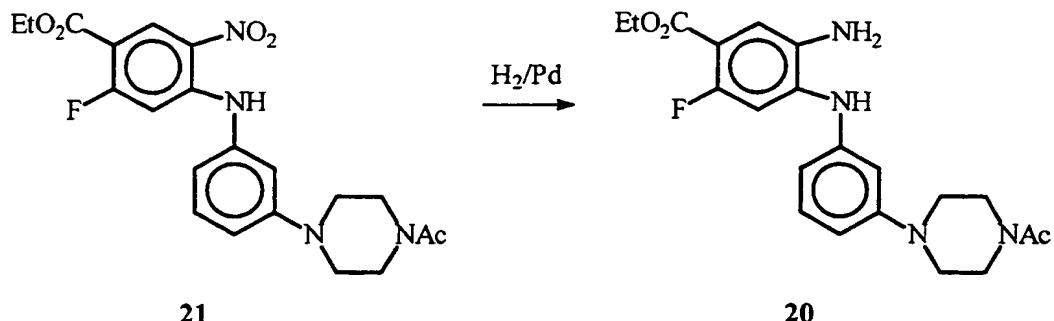


5 N-(4-Acetyl-2-nitrophenyl)-3-(1-acetyl-4-piperazinyl)-aniline (17). To a solution of 18 (17.1 g; 93.6 mmol) (prepared as previously described: WO 96/33191) and triethylamine (13 ml; 93.6 mmol) in anhydrous NMP (50 ml) was added 4f and the mixture was heated to 80°C for four hours. The cooled mixture was poured into ice-water and extracted thrice with ethyl acetate. The organic extract was dried over 10 sodium sulphate and evaporated to dryness to leave 17, quantitatively.

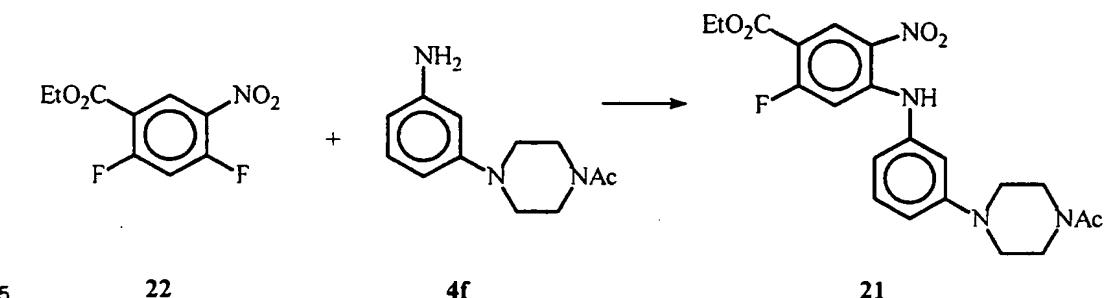
### Example 12



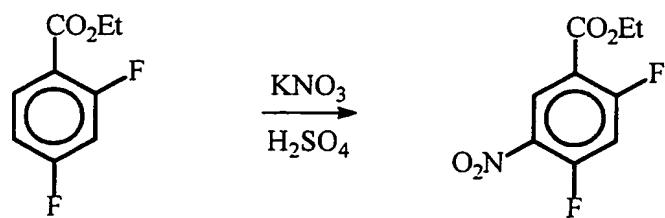
15 Ethyl 1-(3-(4-acetyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-6-fluorobenzimidazole-5-  
carboxylate (19) was prepared analogously to Example 1 from **20**. A mixture of ethyl acetate and ethanol (9:1 v/v) was used as the eluent. Yield: 55%.  $M_p$  undefined



Ethyl 3-amino-4-(3-(4-acetyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-amino-6-fluorobenzoate (20) was prepared from 21 in analogy with Example 2. Abs. ethanol was used as solvent. Quantitative yield.



Ethyl 4-(3-(4-acetyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-amino-6-fluoro-3-nitrobenzoate (21). A mixture of ethyl 2,4-difluoro-5-nitrobenzoate (22) (1.0 g; 4.33 mmol), **4f** (0.95 g; 4.33 mmol) and triethylamine (0.6 ml; 0.33 mmol) in anhydrous NMP (10 ml) was heated to 80°C for one hour. The cooled mixture was poured into water and extracted 10 with ethyl acetate. The organic extract was dried over magnesium sulphate, concentrated under reduced pressure and purified by column-chromatography on silica gel using ethyl acetate as the eluent. Yield: 1.53 g (82%).



Ethyl 2,4-difluoro-5-nitrobenzoate (22). To a cooled (-5-0°C) solution of ethyl 2,4-difluorobenzoate (3.4 g; 18.3 mmol) in conc. sulphuric acid (6 ml) was added potassium nitrate (1.94 g; 19.2 mmol) in small portions over one hour -5°C. Following the addition the temperature was allowed to raise to 20°C over 4-5 hours. The mixture

was poured into ice-water with vigorous stirring. The product was filtered off, washed with water and air-dried. Yield: 3.2 g (76%).

### Example 13

#### 5 *In vitro* and *in vivo* Binding Activity

The GABA recognition site and the benzodiazepine modulatory unit can selectively be labelled with  $^3\text{H}$ -muscimol and  $^3\text{H}$ -flunitrazepam, respectively.

#### 13A: *In vitro* inhibition of $^3\text{H}$ -flunitrazepam ( $^3\text{H}$ -FNM) binding

10

##### Tissue Preparation

Preparations are performed at 0-4°C unless otherwise indicated. Cerebral cortex from male Wistar rats (150-200 g) is homogenised for 5-10 sec in 20 ml Tris-HCl (30 mM, pH 7.4) using an Ultra-Turrax homogeniser. The suspension is centrifuged at 27,000 x g for 15 min and the pellet is washed three times with buffer (centrifuged at 27,000 x g for 10 min). The washed pellet is homogenized in 20 ml of buffer and incubated on a water bath (37°C) for 30 min to remove endogenous GABA and then centrifuged for 10 min at 27,000 x g. The pellet is then homogenized in buffer and centrifuged for 10 min at 27,000 x g. The final pellet is resuspended in 30 ml buffer and the preparation is frozen and stored at -20°C.

##### Assay

The membrane preparation is thawed and centrifuged at 2°C for 10 min at 27,000 x g. The pellet is washed twice with 20 ml 50 mM Tris-citrate, pH 7.1 using an Ultra-Turrax homogeniser and centrifuged for 10 min at 27,000 x g. The final pellet is resuspended in 50 mM Tris-citrate, pH 7.1 (500 ml buffer per g of original tissue), and then used for binding assays. Aliquots of 0.5 ml tissue are added to 25  $\mu\text{l}$  of test solution and 25  $\mu\text{l}$  of  $^3\text{H}$ -FNM (1 nM, final concentration), mixed and incubated for 40 min at 2°C. Non-specific binding is determined using Clonazepam (1  $\mu\text{M}$ , final concentration). After incubation the samples are added 5 ml of ice-cold buffer and poured directly onto Whatman GF/C glass fibre filters under suction and immediately washed with 5 ml ice-cold buffer. The amount of radioactivity on the filters is determined by conventional liquid scintillation counting. Specific binding is total binding minus non-specific binding.

35

##### Results

25-75% inhibition of specific binding must be obtained, before calculation of an  $\text{IC}_{50}$ .

The test value will be given as  $IC_{50}$  (the concentration ( $\mu M$ ) of the test substance which inhibits the specific binding of  $^3H$ -FNM by 50%).

1

$$5 \quad IC_{50} = (\text{applied test substance concentration, } \mu M) \times \frac{1}{\frac{C_o}{(C_o - 1)} - \frac{C_x}{C_x}}$$

 $C_o$  $(\frac{C_o}{C_o - 1})$  $C_x$ 

where

10  $C_o$  is specific binding in control assays, and

$C_x$  is the specific binding in the test assay.

(The calculations assume normal mass-action kinetics).

The results from these experiments are shown in Table 8 below.

### 15 13B: *In vivo* inhibition of $^3H$ -FNM binding

#### Introduction

*In vitro* binding studies have demonstrated that the benzodiazepine  $[^3H]$ FNM binds selectively and with high-affinity to the GABA<sub>A</sub> receptor-ion channel complex.

20  $[^3H]$ FNM can also be used for *in vivo* receptor labelling studies in mouse. Accumulation of  $[^3H]$ FNM binding will occur all over the brain as GABA<sub>A</sub> receptors are widely distributed. The specific binding of  $[^3H]$ FNM can be partly or completely prevented by simultaneous or prior administration of pharmacologically active benzodiazepines or by some benzodiazepine-like compounds.

25

#### Method

All test substances used are solutions prepared in 10% TWEEN 80. Groups of three female NMRI mice (25 g) are injected i.v. via the tail vein with 5.0  $\mu$ Ci of  $[^3H]$ FNM in 0.2 ml saline. Fifteen min after injection with  $[^3H]$ FNM the test substance is 30 administered i.v. Twenty min after injection with  $[^3H]$ FNM, mice are killed by decapitation, the forebrains rapidly excised and homogenized in 12 ml of ice-cold 50 mM Tris-citrate, pH 7.1 using an Ultra-Turrax homogenizer. Three aliquots of 1 ml are immediately filtered through GF/C glass fibre filters and washed with  $2 \times 5$  ml of ice-cold buffer. The amounts of radioactivity on the filters and in 200  $\mu$ l of the homogenate 35 are determined by conventional scintillation counting. Groups of untreated mice serve as controls. To determine non-specific binding groups of mice are injected with Clonazepam (25 mg/kg) i.p. 10 min before  $[^3H]$ FNM injection. Specific binding is the amount of binding in controls minus the amount of binding in Clonazepam treated mice.

**Results**

The ED<sub>50</sub> value is determined from dose response curves. If only one dose of test substance is administered, the ED<sub>50</sub> value is calculated as follows, provided that the inhibition of specific binding is within the range of 25-75%.

5

1

$$ED_{50} = \frac{(administered\ dose,\ mg/kg) \times \frac{1}{C_o (— - 1)}}{C_x}$$

10

where C<sub>o</sub> is specific binding in controls and C<sub>x</sub> is the specific binding in mice treated with test substance.

The results from these experiments are shown in Table 8 below.

15 **Table 8**

Test compound	<i>In vitro</i> binding IC <sub>50</sub> (μM)	<i>In vivo</i> binding ED <sub>50</sub> (mg/kg)
Of the invention:		
1b	0.26	0.9
7j	0.0028	1.9
7i	0.0008	1.8
7g	0.0009	1.4
7c	0.0007	0.43
1l	0.012	0.75
7f	0.0006	0.17
Reference compounds:		
Compound 4d <sub>3</sub> of WO 98/17651	0.06	0.22
Compound 4j of WO 98/17651	1.1	13.3
Compound 4m of WO 98/17651	1.0	6

**Example 14****PTZ Clonic Convulsions**

The purpose of this test is to show antagonism of clonic convulsions induced by pentylenetetrazol (PTZ). PTZ induces clonic convulsions in mice after i.v. infusion. Antagonism of PTZ-induced convulsions is a measure for the agonistic character of ligands for the benzodiazepine recognition site.

**Procedure**

Female NMRI mice (Bomholdtgaard, Ry), 20 g, 6 mice in each group are 10 administered i.v. with vehicle or test substance. After five minutes the PTZ-solution is infused intravenously at a speed of 0.7 ml/minute through a cannula placed in the tail vein. The time from initiation of the infusion to appearance of clonic convulsions is recorded.

The dose of PTZ required for inducing convulsion in each mouse is 15 calculated as PTZ/kg body weight. Means  $\pm$ sd for each experimental group of 6 mice is calculated. ED<sub>100</sub> is calculated by linear regression expressing the dose increasing the PTZ threshold to 100 mg PTZ/kg.

The threshold of vehicle treated controls is in the range of 37-39 mg PTZ/kg. As a control in each series of experiments PTZ is infused into 6 vehicle 20 treated mice.

The results from these experiments are shown in Table 9 below.

**Table 9**

Test compound	ED <sub>100</sub> (mg/kg)	ptz threshold at 30mg/kg (mg/kg)
Of the invention:		
1b	1.6	200
7j	13	170
7i	2.5	140
7g	1.2	200
7c	20	110
1l	17	120
7f	2.7	120
Reference compounds:		
Compound 4d <sub>3</sub> of WO 98/17651	0.16	230

Test compound	ED <sub>100</sub> (mg/kg)	ptz threshold at 30mg/kg (mg/kg)
Compound 4j of WO 98/17651	16	140
Compound 4m of WO 98/17651	9	175

**Example 15****Evaluation of Efficacy**

Selected compounds exhibiting a promising profile in the above tests were 5 evaluated with respect to efficacy and duration of action and compared to prior art as follows.

Aqueous solutions of the test substances (50 mg/ml isotonic glucose) were administered to pigs (25-30 kg) as bolus injections. The actual dose of each substance is included in the table below. The pigs were observed with respect to the 10 time of induction of anaesthesia, the duration of anaesthesia and the normalising time following awakening from anaesthesia.

These observations are compiled in Table 10 below. This table also provides comparative data for compounds of the prior art (WO 98/17651).

15 **Table 10**

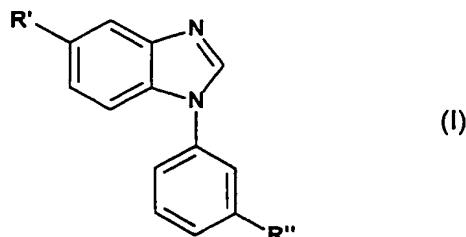
Compound No.	Bolus dose (mg/kg)	Induction Time (min.)	Maintained anaesthesia (min.)	Normalising time following awakening (min.)
7j	3	0,5	8 <sup>a</sup>	20
1b	0,6	1,3	10	15
Compound 4d <sub>3</sub> of WO 98/17651	0,03	0,75	60	120
Compound 4j of WO 98/17651	3	1,0	0 <sup>b</sup>	-
Compound 4m of WO 98/17651	3	-	0 <sup>c</sup>	-

<sup>a</sup> Uneasy sleep<sup>b</sup> light sleep/sedation<sup>c</sup> only mild sedation observed

From the table it can be concluded, that the compounds of the present invention has a very advantageous profile regarding the induction time, duration of action and recovery time. Compared to the compounds of prior art, which shows either a too weak anaesthetising effect or a too long recovery time, the compounds 5 provided by the present invention meet the criteria for promising anaesthetics.

**Claims:**

1. A benzimidazole derivative represented by the general Formula I,



5

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,  
wherein,

R' represents a group of the formula  $-(\text{alk})_q-\text{R}^1$ ,

10 wherein

(alk) represents alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl,

q is 0 or 1,

R<sup>1</sup> represents a group of the formula  $-\text{CO}_2\text{R}^2$ , wherein

15 R<sup>2</sup> represents hydrogen, alkyl, hydroxy-alkyl, alkoxy-alkyl, thioalkoxy-alkyl, alkyl-“Heterocycle”, or -alkyl-NR<sup>3</sup>R<sup>4</sup>,

wherein

“Heterocycle” represents a mono- or polycyclic heterocyclic group, which heterocyclic group is optionally substituted one or more times with substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, cyano, hydroxy-alkyl, alkoxy-alkyl, carboxyl and acyl, and a group of the formula  $-(\text{alkyl})_p-\text{CN}$ ,  $-(\text{alkyl})_p-\text{aryl}$ ,  $-(\text{alkyl})_p-\text{“Heterocycle”}$ ,  $-(\text{alkyl})_p-\text{CO}_2-\text{“Heterocycle”}$  or  $-(\text{alkyl}-\text{CO}_2)_s-(\text{alkyl})_t-\text{COR}^5$ ,

20 in which formulas

25 p, s and t independently of each other is 0 or 1,

“Heterocycle” represents a mono- or polycyclic heterocyclic group, which heterocyclic group is optionally substituted one or more times with substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, cyano, hydroxy-alkyl, alkoxy-alkyl, carboxyl and acyl,

30 R<sup>5</sup> represents hydroxy, alkoxy, hydroxy-alkoxy, alkoxy-alkoxy, thioalkoxy-alkoxy, or a group of the formula  $-\text{NR}^6\text{R}^7$  or  $-\text{O-alkyl-NR}^6\text{R}^7$ ,

in which formulas

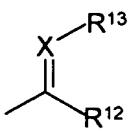
$R^6$  and  $R^7$  independently of each another represent hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl or a mono- or polycyclic heterocyclic group, which heterocyclic group is optionally substituted one or more times with substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, hydroxy-alkyl, alkoxy-alkyl, carboxyl and acyl, or

$R^6$  and  $R^7$  together with the nitrogen to which they are attached form a mono- or polycyclic heterocyclic group, which heterocyclic group may be substituted one or more times with substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, hydroxy-alkyl, alkoxy-alkyl, carboxyl and acyl; and

$R^3$  and  $R^4$  independently of each other represent hydrogen, alkyl or cycloalkyl, or

$R^3$  and  $R^4$  together with the nitrogen to which they are attached form a mono- or poly-cyclic heterocyclic group, which heterocyclic group is optionally substituted one or more times with substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, hydroxy-alkyl, alkoxy-alkyl, carboxyl and acyl; or

$R^1$  represents a group of the formula  $\begin{array}{c} \text{---} \\ | \\ \text{---} \end{array} R^{12}$ , wherein



X represents N or CH.

$R^{12}$  represents hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy or hydroxy-alkyl, and

$R^{13}$  represents hydrogen, hydroxy, alkyl, alkoxy or hydroxy-alkyl; or

$R^1$  represents a mono- or polycyclic heterocyclic group, which heterocyclic group is optionally substituted one or more times with substituents selected from the group consisting of alkyl, hydroxy-alkyl, alkoxy-alkyl, carboxyl, and acyl, and a group of the formula  $-(\text{alkyl})_p\text{-aryl}$ ,  $-(\text{alkyl})_p\text{-Heterocycle}$ ,  $-(\text{alkyl})_p\text{-CN}$  or  $-(\text{alkyl}-\text{CO}_2)_p\text{-(alkyl)-COR}^5$

in which formulas

p, s and t independently of each another is 0 or 1

"Heterocycle" represents a mono- or polycyclic heterocyclic group, which heterocyclic group is optionally substituted one or more times with substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, cyano, hydroxy-alkyl, alkoxy-alkyl, carboxyl and acyl.

5  $R^5$  represents hydroxy, alkoxy, hydroxy-alkoxy, alkoxy-alkoxy, thioalkoxy-alkoxy, or a group of the formula  $-NR^6R^7$  or  $-O\text{-alkyl}\text{-}NR^6R^7$ , in which formulas

10  $R^6$  and  $R^7$  independently of each other represent hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl or a mono- or polycyclic heterocyclic group, which heterocyclic group is optionally substituted one or more times with substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, hydroxy-alkyl, alkoxy-alkyl, carboxyl and acyl, or

15  $R^6$  and  $R^7$  together with the nitrogen to which they are attached form a mono- or polycyclic heterocyclic group, which heterocyclic group is optionally substituted one or more times with substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, hydroxy-alkyl, alkoxy-alkyl, carboxyl and acyl; and

20  $R''$  represents  $-(\text{alkyl})_o\text{-}\text{"Heterocycle"}\text{ or }-(\text{alkyl})_o\text{-CO}_2\text{-(alkyl)}_u\text{-}\text{"Heterocycle"},$  wherein

25  $o$  and  $u$  independently of each other is 0 or 1, and

30  $\text{"Heterocycle"}$  represents a mono- or polycyclic heterocyclic group, which heterocyclic group is optionally substituted one or more times with substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, cyano, hydroxy-alkyl, alkoxy-alkyl, carboxyl, and acyl, and a group of the formula  $-(\text{alkyl})_p\text{-CN}$ ,  $-(\text{alkyl})_p\text{-aryl}$ ,  $-(\text{alkyl})_p\text{-aralkyl}$ ,  $-(\text{alkyl})_p\text{-O-aryl}$ ,  $-(\text{alkyl})_p\text{-O-aralkyl}$ ,  $-(\text{alkyl})_p\text{-CO}_2\text{-aryl}$ ,  $-(\text{alkyl})_p\text{-CO}_2\text{-aralkyl}$ ,  $-(\text{alkyl})_p\text{-}\text{"Heterocycle"},$   $-(\text{alkyl})_p\text{-CO}_2\text{-}\text{"Heterocycle"}\text{ or }-(\text{alkyl-CO}_2)_s\text{-(alkyl)}_t\text{-COR}^5$ ,

35 in which formulas

35  $p$ ,  $s$  and  $t$  independently of each other is 0 or 1,

40  $\text{"Heterocycle"}$  represents a mono- or polycyclic heterocyclic group, which heterocyclic group is optionally substituted one or more times with substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, cyano, hydroxy-alkyl, alkoxy-alkyl, carboxyl and acyl,

45  $R^5$  represents hydrogen, hydroxy, alkyl, alkoxy, hydroxy-alkyl, hydroxy-alkoxy, alkoxy-alkyl, alkoxy-alkoxy, thioalkoxy-alkyl, thioalkoxy-alkoxy, or a group of the formula  $-NR^6R^7$  or  $-O\text{-alkyl}\text{-}NR^6R^7$ ,

50 in which formulas

55  $R^6$  and  $R^7$  independently of each other represent hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl or a mono- or polycyclic heterocyclic group, which heterocyclic group is optionally substituted one or more times with substituents selected from the group consisting of

halogen, alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, hydroxy-alkyl, alkoxy-alkyl, carboxyl and acyl, or

5                   R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>7</sup> together with the nitrogen to which they are attached form a mono- or polycyclic heterocyclic group, which heterocyclic group is optionally substituted one or more times with substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, hydroxy-alkyl, alkoxy-alkyl, carboxyl and acyl; or

R" represents -(alkyl)<sub>m</sub>-CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>,

10                  wherein

m is 0 or 1, and

R<sup>8</sup> represents hydrogen, alkyl, hydroxy-alkyl, alkoxy-alkyl, thioalkoxy-alkyl, or a group of the formula -(alkyl)<sub>p</sub>-NR<sup>9</sup>R<sup>10</sup>,

wherein

15                  p is 0 or 1, and

R<sup>9</sup> and R<sup>10</sup> independently of each other represent hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, or a mono- or polycyclic heterocyclic group, which heterocyclic group is optionally substituted one or more times with substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, hydroxy-alkyl, alkoxy-alkyl, carboxyl and acyl, or

20                  R<sup>9</sup> and R<sup>10</sup> together with the nitrogen to which they are attached form a mono- or polycyclic heterocyclic group, which heterocyclic group is optionally substituted one or more times with substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, hydroxy-alkyl, alkoxy-alkyl, carboxyl and acyl.

25                  R<sup>9</sup> and R<sup>10</sup> together with the nitrogen to which they are attached form a mono- or polycyclic heterocyclic group, which heterocyclic group is optionally substituted one or more times with substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, hydroxy-alkyl, alkoxy-alkyl, carboxyl and acyl.

2. The benzimidazole derivative of claim 1, wherein R" represents

2-(4-acetylpirazin-1-yl)-ethoxy-carbonyl;

pyridin-2-yl-methoxy-carbonyl;

30                  1-Methyl-2-pyrrolidyl-methoxy-carbonyl; or

3,5-dimethyl-1-piperazinyl-ethoxy-carbonyl.

3. The benzimidazole derivative of claim 2, which is

2-(1-Acetyl-4-piperazinyl)-ethyl 3-(5-(3-furanyl)-1-benzimidazolyl)-benzoate;

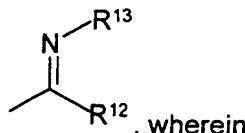
35                  1-Methyl-2-pyrrolidylmethyl 3-(5-(3-furanyl)-1-benzimidazolyl)-benzoate;

2-(3,5-dimethyl-1-piperazinyl)-ethyl 3-(5-acetylbenzimidazol-1-yl)-benzoate oxime; or

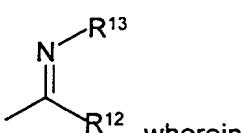
2-(2-pyridyl)-methyl 3-(5-acetylbenzimidazol-1-yl)-benzoate oxime;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

## 4. The benzimidazole derivative of claim 1, wherein

R<sup>1</sup> represents a group of the formula -CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>2</sup>, wherein5 R<sup>2</sup> represents alkyl, hydroxy-alkyl, alkoxy-alkyl, thioalkoxy-alkyl, alkyl-N(alkyl)<sub>2</sub>; orR<sup>1</sup> represents a group of the formulaR<sup>12</sup> represents alkyl, andR<sup>13</sup> represents hydroxy, or alkoxy; or10 R<sup>1</sup> represents a furanyl group, a pyrazolyl group, an isoxazolyl group, an oxazolyl group, an oxadiazolyl group.

## 5. The benzimidazole derivative of claim 4, wherein

15 R<sup>1</sup> represents a group of the formula -COOH, -CO<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>3</sub>, -CO<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>, -CO<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH(OH), -CO<sub>2</sub>(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>OCH<sub>3</sub>, -CO<sub>2</sub>(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SCH<sub>3</sub>, -CO<sub>2</sub>(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SC<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>, or -CO<sub>2</sub>(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>N(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>; orR<sup>1</sup> represents a group of the formulaR<sup>12</sup> represents methyl or ethyl, andR<sup>13</sup> represents hydroxy, methoxy or ethoxy; orR<sup>1</sup> represents a 2- or 3-furanyl group.

## 25 6. The benzimidazole derivative of claim 5, which is

2-(3,5-dimethyl-1-piperazinyl)-ethyl 3-(5-acetylbenzimidazol-1-yl)-benzoate oxime; or

2-(2-pyridyl)-methyl 3-(5-acetylbenzimidazol-1-yl)-benzoate oxime; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

30

## 7. The benzimidazole derivative of either of claims 4-5, wherein

R" represents a group of the formula -(alkyl)<sub>o</sub>-Heterocycle, wherein

o is 0 or 1, and

5 "Heterocycle" represents a furanyl group, a 2H-furanyl group, a 4H-furanyl group, a thienyl group, a pyrrolyl group, a 2H-pyrrolyl (pyrrolinyl) group, a 4H-pyrrolyl (pyrrolidinyl) group, an imidazolyl group, an oxazolyl group, a 2H-oxazolyl (oxazolinyl) group, a 4H-oxazolyl (oxazolidinyl) group, an isoxazolyl group, a 2H-isoxazolyl (isoxazolinyl) group, a 4H-isoxazolyl (isoxazolidinyl) group, an oxadiazolyl group, a 2H-oxadiazolyl (oxadiazolinyl) group, a 4H-oxadiazolyl (oxadiazolidinyl) group, a morpholinyl group, a thiomorpholinyl group, a pyridinyl group, a piperidinyl group, a piperazine group, a homopiperazine group or a tetrazolyl group, which heterocyclic groups may be substituted one or more times with substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, alkyl, oxo, acyl, alkyl-CO<sub>2</sub>H, alkyl-CO<sub>2</sub>-alkyl -(alkyl)<sub>p</sub>-CO<sub>2</sub>-aryl, -(alkyl)<sub>p</sub>-CO<sub>2</sub>-aralkyl and alkyl-CO<sub>2</sub>-alkyl-CNR<sup>6</sup>R<sup>7</sup>, wherein  
10 R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>7</sup> independently of each another represent hydrogen or alkyl.  
15

8. The benzimidazole derivative of claim 7, wherein

20 "Heterocycle" represents a pyrrolidin-1-yl; a piperazin-1-yl; a homopiperazin-1-yl; an imidazol-1-yl; a pyridin-4-yl; a 4H-pyridin-4-yl, in particular a 1,2,5,6-tetrahydro-pyridin-4-yl; a piperidin-4-yl; a 2H-isoxazol-3-yl, in particular a 4,5-dihydro-isoxazol-3-yl.

9. The benzimidazole derivative of claim 8, wherein R" represents

25 4-ethoxycarbonyl-1-imidazolyl;  
4-methoxycarbonyl-1-imidazolyl;  
5-((N,N-Diethylcarbamoyl)-methoxycarbonylmethyl)-4,5-dihydroisoxazol-3-yl;  
30 5-((N,N-Dimethylcarbamoyl)-methoxycarbonylmethyl)-4,5-dihydroisoxazol-3-yl;  
1-imidazolylmethyl;  
4-(1-methyl-5-tetrazolyl)-methyl-1-piperazinyl;  
1-ethyl-1,2,5,6-tetrahydropyridin-4-yl;  
35 4-(2-oxazolidinone-5-yl)-methyl-1-piperazinyl;  
4-(5-methyloxadiazol-3-yl)-methyl-1-piperazinyl;  
4-(3,5-dimethylisoxazol-4-yl)-methyl-1-piperazinyl;  
4-(2-oxo-tetrahydrofuran-3-yl)-1-piperazinyl;  
4-(2-chloro-5-thienyl)-methyl-1-piperazinyl; or  
35 (1-methyl-2-pyrrolidyl)-methylcarbonyl.

10. The benzimidazole derivative of claim 9, which is

2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-methoxycarbonyl-1-imidazolyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

5 (N,N-Diethylcarbamoyl)-methyl 2-(3-[3-(5-ethoxycarbonyl-1-benzimidazolyl)-phenyl]-4,5-dihydroxyisoxazol-5-yl)-acetate;

Methyl 1-(3-(1-imidazolylmethyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

2-(Methylthio)-ethyl 1-(3-(1-imidazolylmethyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

10 2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-(1-methyl-5-tetrazolyl)methyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(1-ethyl-1,2,5,6-tetrahydropyridin-4-yl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

15 2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-(2-oxazolidinone-5-yl)-methyl)1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-(5-methyloxadiazol-3-yl)-methyl)1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

20 2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-(3,5-dimethylisoxazol-4-yl)methyl)1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-(2-oxo-tetrahydrofuran-3-yl)-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

25 2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-(2-chloro-5-thienyl)-methyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

5-(3-Furanyl)-1-(3-(4-methoxycarbonyl-1-imidazolyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole;

or

N,N-Diethylcarbamoylmethyl 2-(3-(3-(5-(3-furanyl)-1-benzimidazolyl)-phenyl)-4,5-dihydroisoxazole-5-yl)-acetate;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

30 11. The benzimidazole derivative of either of claims 4-5, wherein

R" represents a group of the formula -CO<sub>2</sub>-(alkyl)<sub>o</sub>-Heterocycle", wherein

o is 0 or 1, and

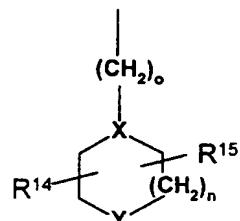
35 "Heterocycle" represents a pyrrolyl group, a 2H-pyrrolyl (pyrrolinyl) group, a 4H-pyrrolyl (pyrrolidinyl) group, an imidazolyl group, an oxazolyl group, an isoxazolyl group, a 2H-isoxazolyl (isoxazolinyl) group, a 4H-isoxazolyl (isoxazolidinyl) group, an oxadiazolyl group, a pyridyl group, a piperidinyl group, a piperazine group or a homopiperazine group, which heterocyclic groups may be substituted

one or more times with substituents selected from the group consisting of alkyl, acyl, alkyl-CO<sub>2</sub>H, alkyl-CO<sub>2</sub>-alkyl and alkyl-CO<sub>2</sub>-alkyl-CONR<sup>6</sup>R<sup>7</sup>, wherein

5 R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>7</sup> independently of each other represent hydrogen or alkyl.

12. The benzimidazole derivative of either of claims 4-5, wherein

R" represents a group of the formula



10

in which formula

o is 0 or 1,

n is 0, 1 or 2,

X represents N or CH,

15 Y represents O, NR<sup>11</sup> or CHR<sup>11</sup>,

wherein R<sup>11</sup> represents hydrogen, alkyl, hydroxy-alkyl, alkoxy-alkyl, carboxyl or acyl, or a group of the formula -(alkyl)<sub>p</sub>-CN, -(alkyl)<sub>p</sub>-aryl, -(alkyl)<sub>p</sub>-O-aryl, -(alkyl)<sub>p</sub>-O-aralkyl, -(alkyl)<sub>p</sub>-"Heterocycle", -(alkyl)<sub>p</sub>-CO<sub>2</sub>-"Heterocycle" or -(alkyl-CO<sub>2</sub>)<sub>s</sub>-(alkyl)<sub>t</sub>-COR<sup>5</sup>,

20 wherein

p, s and t independently of each other is 0 or 1,

"Heterocycle" represents a mono- or polycyclic heterocyclic group, which heterocyclic group is optionally substituted one or more times with substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, cyano, hydroxy-alkyl, alkoxy-alkyl, carboxyl and acyl,

R<sup>5</sup> represents hydroxy, alkoxy, hydroxy-alkoxy, alkoxy-alkoxy, thioalkoxy-alkoxy, aryl or aralkyl, or a group of the formula -NR<sup>6</sup>R<sup>7</sup> or -O-alkyl-NR<sup>6</sup>R<sup>7</sup>, in which formulas

30 R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>7</sup> independently of each other represents hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl or a mono- or polycyclic heterocyclic group, which heterocyclic group is optionally

substituted one or more times with substituents selected from the group consisting of alkyl, and acyl, or R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>7</sup> together with the nitrogen to which they are attached form a mono- or polycyclic heterocyclic group, which heterocyclic group may be substituted one or more times with substituents selected from the group consisting of alkyl and acyl, and

5

R<sup>14</sup> and R<sup>15</sup> independently of each another represent hydrogen, alkyl, hydroxy-alkyl, alkoxy-alkyl, carboxyl or acyl; or

10

R" represents a group of the formula -CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, wherein

R<sup>8</sup> represents alkyl-NR<sup>9</sup>R<sup>10</sup>, wherein

15

R<sup>9</sup> and R<sup>10</sup> together with the nitrogen to which they are attached form a pyrrolidine or a piperazine group, which group may be substituted one or more times with substituents selected from the group consisting of alkyl and acyl.

13. The compound according to claim 12, wherein R" represents

4-methoxycarbonyl-methyl-3,5-dimethyl-1-piperazinyl;

20

4-ethoxycarbonyl-methyl-3,5-dimethyl-1-piperazinyl;

4-methyl-3,5-dimethyl-1-piperazinyl;

4-ethyl-3,5-dimethyl-1-piperazinyl; or

3,5-dimethyl-1-piperazinyl.

25

14. The compound according to claim 12, which compound is

2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-ethoxycarbonylmethyl-3,5-dimethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

2-Methyl 1-(3-(4-ethoxycarbonylmethyl-3,5-dimethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

30

2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-ethyl-3,5-dimethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(3,5-dimethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate; or

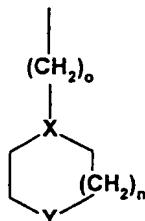
35

2-(3,5-dimethyl-1-piperazinyl)-ethyl 3-(5-acetylbenzimidazol-1-yl)-benzoate oxime;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

15. The benzimidazole derivative of claim 12, wherein

R" represents a group of the formula



in which formula

o is 0 or 1,

5 n is 0, 1 or 2,

X represents N or CH, and

Y represents NR<sup>11</sup> or CHR<sup>11</sup>, wherein

10 R<sup>11</sup> represents hydrogen, alkyl, hydroxy-alkyl, carboxy, acyl, or a group of the formula -(alkyl)<sub>p</sub>-CN, -(alkyl)<sub>p</sub>-aryl, -(alkyl)<sub>p</sub>-O-aryl, -(alkyl)<sub>p</sub>-O-aralkyl, -(alkyl)<sub>t</sub>-COR<sup>5</sup> or -(alkyl)<sub>t</sub>-R<sup>5</sup>,

wherein

p and t independently of each another is 0 or 1, and

R<sup>5</sup> represents hydroxy, alkoxy, NH<sub>2</sub>, NH(alkyl) or N(alkyl)<sub>2</sub>.

15 16. The benzimidazole derivative of claim 15, wherein R" represents

4-(methoxy-carbonyl)-1-piperazinylmethyl;

4-(ethoxy-carbonyl)-1-piperazinylmethyl;

4-(methoxy-carbonyl-methyl)-1-piperazinyl;

4-(ethoxy-carbonyl-methyl)-1-piperazinyl;

20 4-(methoxy-carbonyl-methyl)-1-piperazinylmethyl;

4-(ethoxy-carbonyl-methyl)-1-piperazinylmethyl;

1-piperazinyl;

1-piperazinyl-methyl;

4-acetyl-1-piperazinyl;

25 4-methyl-1-piperazinyl;

4-ethyl-1-piperazinyl;

1-methyl-4-piperidinyl;

1-acetyl-4-piperidinyl;

1-methyl-4-piperidyl;

30 1-acetyl-4-piperidyl;

4-*tert*-butoxycarbonylmethyl-1-piperazinyl;

4-isopropoxycarbonylmethyl-1-piperazinyl;

4-carboxymethyl-1-piperazinyl;

4-benzyl-1-piperazinyl;  
4-cyanomethyl-1-piperazinyl;  
4-benzyloxy-ethyl-1-piperazinyl;  
4-ethyl-1-homopiperazinyl;  
5 4-(2-hydroxy-ethyl)-1-piperazinyl;  
4-carbamoylmethyl-1-piperazinyl;  
4-dimethylcarbamoylmethyl-1-piperazinyl; or  
4-diethylcarbamoylmethyl-1-piperazinyl.

10 17. The compound according to claim 15, which compound is

2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-(ethoxycarbonyl)-1-piperazinylmethyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-(ethoxycarbonylmethyl)-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

15 2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-carboxymethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-methyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

20 2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-acetyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(1-methyl-4-piperidyl)phenyl)benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(1-acetyl-4-piperidyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

25 2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-*t*-butoxycarbonylmethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-*i*-propoxycarbonylmethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

30 2-[4-(3-(5-Methoxycarbonylbenzimidazol-1-yl)-phenyl)-1-piperazinyl]-acetic acid;

2-(Methylthio)-ethyl 1-(3-(4-methyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

2-(N,N-dimethylamino)-ethyl 1-(3-(1-carboxymethyl-4-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

35 2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-benzyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

Methyl 1-(3-(4-cyanomethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-cyanomethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

Methyl 1-(3-(4-benzyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-benzyloxyethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

5 2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-ethyl-1-homopiperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-ethyl-1-homopiperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

10 2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-ethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

2-Hydroxyethyl 1-(3-(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

Methyl 1-(3-(1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

15 2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

2-Hydroxyethyl 1-(3-(4-methyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

2-Hydroxyethyl 1-(3-(4-methoxycarbonylmethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

20 2-Hydroxyethyl 1-(3-(4-ethoxycarbonylmethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-diethylcarbamoylmethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

25 2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-methoxycarbonylmethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-carbamoylmethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

2-Hydroxyethyl 1-(3-(4-carbamoylmethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

30 2-Hydroxyethyl 1-(3-(4-diethylcarbamoylmethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

2-Hydroxyethyl 1-(3-(4-carboxymethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

35 5-(3-Furanyl)-1-(3-((4-ethoxycarbonyl-1-piperazinyl)-methyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole;

5-(3-Furanyl)-1-(3-(1-(ethoxycarbonylmethyl)-4-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole;

5-(3-Furanyl)-1-(3-(4-t-butoxycarbonylmethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole;

5-(3-Furanyl)-1-(3-(1-ethoxycarbonylmethyl-4-piperazinylmethyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole;

5-(3-Furanyl)-1-(3-(1-ethoxycarbonylmethyl-4-piperidyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole;

5 5-(3-Furanyl)-1-(3-(4-ethoxycarbonylpiperid-1-ylmethyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole; or

5-(3-Furanyl)-1-(3-(1-ethoxycarbonyl-4-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

10 18. A pharmaceutical composition containing a therapeutically effective amount of a benzimidazole derivative according to any of claims 1-17, or a pharmaceutically acceptable addition salt thereof, together with at least one pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, excipient or diluent.

15 19. The use of a benzimidazole derivative according to any of claims 1-17 for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment, prevention or alleviation of a disease or a disorder or a condition of a mammal, including a human, which disease, disorder or condition is responsive to modulation of the GABA receptor complex.

20 20. The use according to claim 19, wherein the medicament is for inducing anaesthesia, pre-anaesthesia, muscle relaxation, or sedation, or for treatment, prevention or alleviation of fewer cramps or status epilepticus.

25 21. A method for treatment, prevention or alleviation of a disease or a disorder or a condition of a living animal body, including a human, which disorder, disease or condition is responsive to modulation of the GABA receptor complex, which method comprises the step of administering to such a living animal body in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a benzimidazole derivative

30 according to any of claims 1-17.

22. The method according to claim 21, for the induction or maintenance of anaesthesia or pre-anaesthesia, muscle relaxation or sedation, or for the treatment, prevention or alleviation of fewer cramps or status epilepticus.

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/DK 00/00333

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC7: C07D 235/06, C07D 401/10, C07D 403/10, C07D 405/14, C07D 409/02, C07D 413/14, A61K 31/4184, A61K 31/496, A61P 21/00, A61P23/00, A61P25/00  
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC7: C07D

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 9817651 A1 (NEUROSEARCH A/S), 30 April 1998 (30.04.98), the claims and examples --	1-22
X	WO 9633194 A1 (NEUROSEARCH A/S ET AL), 24 October 1996 (24.10.96), the claims and examples --	1-22
X	WO 9919323 A1 (NEUROSEARCH A/S ET AL), 22 April 1999 (22.04.99), the claims and examples --	1-22
X	WO 9633191 A1 (NEUROSEARCH A/S ET AL), 24 October 1996 (24.10.96), the claims and examples --	1-22

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.  See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents	"T"	later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"X"	document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date	"Y"	document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"I" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"&"	document member of the same patent family
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means		
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		

Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
25 October 2000	30.11.2000

Name and mailing address of the International Searching Authority  
European Patent Office P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2  
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## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No. PCT/DK 00/00333
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C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP 0616807 A1 (MEIJI SEIKA KAISHA LTD.), 28 Sept 1994 (28.09.94), the claims and examples --	1-22
X	WO 9633192 A1 (NEUROSEARCH A/S ET AL), 24 October 1996 (24.10.96), the claims and examples --	1-22
X	US 5554632 A (LENE TEUBER ET AL), 10 Sept 1996 (10.09.96), the claims and examples --	1-22
X	US 5554630 A (LENE TEUBER ET AL), 10 Sept 1996 (10.09.96), the claims and examples --	1-22
X	WO 9834923 A1 (MERCK SHARP & DOHME LIMITED), 13 August 1998 (13.08.98), the claims -- -----	1-22

**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

International application No.  
**PCT/DK00/00333**

**Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)**

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1.  Claims Nos.: **21-22**  
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:  
**See extra sheet.**
2.  Claims Nos.:  
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
3.  Claims Nos.:  
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).:

**Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)**

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1.  As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2.  As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3.  As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4.  No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

**Remark on Protest**

The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.  
 No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

International application No. <b>PCT/DK00/00333</b>
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Claims 21-22 relate to methods of treatment of the human or animal body by surgery or by therapy/diagnostic methods practised on the human or animal body/ Rule. 39.1.(iv). Nevertheless, a search has been executed for these claims. The search has been based on the alleged effects of the compound(s)/composition(s).

**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**  
Information on patent family members

International application No.	
PCT/DK 00/00333	

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